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AND China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTH.

On Sunday, the 24th February, at the Cedars, Marlborough Avenue, Croydon, the wife of EDMUND SHAER, late of Hongkong, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On the 21st February, at St. James's, Weybridge, by the Rector, the Rev. W. B. Money, assisted by the Rev. B. de Chair and the Rev. J. E. Tarbutt, EDWARD OSBORNE, of Hongkong, younger son of the late Charles Osborne, Esq., of East Molesey, to PHYLLIS, youngest daughter of George WHITLEY, Esq., of Fairholme, Weybridge.

At Holy Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, on 27th March, 1895, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., FRITZ MAX ULBRICHT, officer of the steamer *Stora-Nordiska*, to MARY JANE WARREN.

At the Cathedral, Shanghai, on the 30th of March, 1895, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., CHARLES, son of John ERSKINE, Esq., of Newcastle-on-Tyne, to ISABELLA, daughter of William James FORSTER, Esq., of Tynemouth, England.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The French mail of the 1st March arrived per M. M. steamer *Salazie*, on the 3rd April (33 days); the English mail of the 8th March arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Rosetta*, on the 7th April (30 days); and the German mail of the 1st March arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Preussen*, on the 10th April (30 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

A treaty between Japan and Peru was signed at Washington on the 23rd ult.

Up to the 5th inst. the amount of the war loan at Canton aggregated Tls. 2,189,750.

The Mitsu Bishi Company is making extensive additions to its docking and ship-repairing establishments at Nagasaki.

A telegram has been received in Tokyo stating that the Japanese-American Treaty was ratified at Washington on the 22nd March.

According to a Reuter's telegram, the *Times* says that the speculation in silver is based on the expectation of a large demand for the white metal in the East, also on the idea that a conference, of which the Government has as yet heard nothing officially, will do something to re-establish its value.

It is stated that the Chinese Admiralty Board is to be abolished at a useless expense. A deficit of over five million taels has been discovered in the Board's accounts and the members are ordered to make good the amount.

The half-yearly report of the Jebleu Mining and Trading Co., Limited, shows a profit of \$4,209, of which it is proposed to place 1,923 to the reserve fund, in order to bring the reserve to its previous figure of \$25,000, and to carry forward the balance.

We are informed by the Manager of the Bank of China, Japan, and the Straits, Limited, that he has received a telegram from his head office in London advising that an amended reconstruction scheme has been accepted by the depositors and made absolute by the Court.

The foreign Consuls at Tientsin have been notified by the Acting Superintendent of Northern Trade, Wang Wen-shao, that an Imperial edict has been issued to the effect that the port of Tientsin will be closed in the event of Japanese men-of-war appearing off Taku.

According to a Paris telegram in the *Tonkin* papers a loan of twenty-five million francs for China is in contemplation. Thirteen million francs are to defray the cost of the Langson Railway and the remainder is to be used for other public works, especially railways.

On the 2nd inst. a new building for the Shanghai Public School was opened by Mrs. George Jamieson in the presence of a very large number of people, including the Chairmen and members of the two Councils, the Consular Body, the Masonic Fraternity, most of the leading residents of the Settlement, and a strong contingent of young people, representing the Public School and other educational establishments in Shanghai.

Li Hung-chang is now convalescent and the peace negotiations are proceeding. There seems to be a more hopeful feeling of a satisfactory result than formerly prevailed. The armistice is in force in the North, and, although Formosa was exempted, nothing has been done there, but the Japanese have a number of war vessels and five transports at the Pescadores. The authorities at Canton are apprehensive of an attack on that city and additional mines and torpedoes have been laid in the river, in consequence of which night navigation has been suspended.

On the 26th March the following telegram was despatched to Shimonesaki from the Tientsin Club:—"To H.E. The Viceroy Li Hung-chang. The foreign residents of Tientsin offer sincere sympathy to His Excellency. They deeply regret the calamity which has befallen him." On Thursday, the 28th, a reply was received as follows:—"Thanks to all for kind remembrances. Wound painful. Bullet cannot be safely removed, but am improving steadily and can attend to business from bed. My best wishes to the whole community.—Li Hung-chang."

The *Bangkok Times* says:—"Rumour has it that a misunderstanding has arisen between the members of the Commission for delimitating the neutral zone of the Upper Mekong. A letter has recently been received from Mr. J. G. Scott, dated February 9th, which we understand contains information of some hitch having occurred, but for obvious reasons it is inadvisable at present to publish any statement. Difficulties which would require reference to the British and French Governments were, however, anticipated before the starting of the Commission, and the statement that M. Pavie is expected on a visit to Bangkok is probably connected therewith."

The coolie strike at Hongkong came to an end on the 4th inst. The Government remained firm and made no concession, and the result was surrender on the part of the strikers. Many of the common lodging house keepers have complied with the law as regards registration and those who have not done so are being prosecuted at the Police Court.

The *N. C. Daily News* says:—"If the Japanese are really intent on capturing vessels with ammunition on board for the Chinese government their efforts, so far, have not been very successful, for at least four ships have succeeded in reaching this country. They have come by way of Anjer, two of them having reached Shanghai, and the other two Chinkiang, one vessel changing her name in order to more effectually mislead the would-be capturers. It may be, however, that no attempt is being made, but that the Japanese anticipate becoming possessed of the war material when they make the captures on land, as they did at Port Arthur and other places, and thus prevent complications with foreigners."

To further cut down the expenses of the Court H.I.M. the Empress-Dowager has the *N. C. Daily News* says, signified her intention to return to the capital, live in the Tzening Palace, and close the large establishment known as Eho Park and the Lake Palaces (*Nan Pei-Hai-tze*), which has cost the Imperial Treasury nearly ten millions yearly. The Emperor, knowing that the Empress-Dowager is passionately fond of Eho Park with its surroundings of hill and forest, especially as it is ten miles away from the noise, dust, and smells of the capital, tried his best to make Her Majesty retain Eho Park and close the Lake Palaces only; but the Empress-Dowager is determined to economise for the country, and her decree has now become law.

Recent despatches from Tientsin, the *N. C. Daily News* says, report the arrest, by the Governor of Shantung, of General Liu Chao psi, ex-Commander of the South forts of Weihaiwei. This officer's cowardly example caused his men to be affected in the same way, so that when the Japanese troops were seen coming down the hills to the attack, General officers, and men at once deserted their posts without attempting to fire a single shot or even disable the splendid guns of the fort. When arrested Liu was disguised as a peasant. A decree has been issued ordering him to Peking to be tried for cowardice and the probabilities are that he will be executed even before the decapitation of Kung Chao-yü of Port Arthur and Yeh Chih-chao of Yashan notoriety takes place.

At Shanghai on the 31st ult., we learn from the *Mercury*, Mr. H. C. Pearce was the means of rescuing a Chinaman who attempted to commit suicide by jumping into the Soochow Creek, some way past the Upper Boat House. As two boats, an eight and four, were returning home, the latter slightly ahead, Pearce, who was stroking the four, saw a man's head bolt up directly astern of his boat. He immediately plucked up and swam ashore with the man. H. W. Hune, who was also in the boat, jumped overboard too, but his assistance was not required, as Pearce had his man well in hand. After landing the man, who was partly insensible, they managed to get him into a small farm, where they stripped him of his wet clothes and after a time they succeeded in restoring animation. Mr. Pearce deserves much praise for his prompt action and doubtless the man would have succeeded in his intention of taking his life had it not been for Mr. Pearce's promptness and bravery.

BRITAIN'S NAVAL STRENGTH IN THE FAR EAST.

At that mournful time when Death's icy hand had fallen on the Czar ALEXANDER III., and the Prince of WALES, as uncle to NICHOLAS II., bore so prominent a part in the melancholy ceremonies that followed, Russia and Great Britain were drawn together by the sympathy that flowed out from the latter, and which was warmly appreciated in the great Muscovite Empire. Thereafter and in some degree perhaps in consequence thereof, a better understanding arose between the two great Powers. The distrust felt by a very large section of the British public for Russia and the Russian Government, if not actually dissipated, became greatly modified, while many journals warmly advocated an Anglo-Russian alliance. No actual alliance was entered into, but it was commonly believed and understood that, so far as Eastern Asia was concerned, the two Powers had come to a mutual understanding and would act in concert. There can be no doubt that such was the wish of the young Czar, and it is certain his leanings must count for much in the framing of the foreign policy of Russia. In this belief the British Press and people have looked on with equanimity while ship after ship has been despatched from Europe to reinforce the Russian squadron in the Pacific. The additions to the Russian naval power in these waters have been, comparatively, far greater than those made to the British Squadron, which has been temporarily strengthened during the Chino-Japanese war by five cruisers and two gunboats, for the better protection of British commercial interests on the coasts and in the ports of China. The Russian fleet was first increased the addition to it, last year, of the "clad Admiral Nahimoff and the cruisers *Ida* and *Zabiyaka*, while during the present year it has been further reinforced by "ironclads *Pamiat Azova*, and *Vladimir Monach*, two or three torpedo cruisers and one torpedo boat. The garrison at Vladivostock has also been considerably reinforced. That of Hongkong has not been increased by a single man, and the Squadron has been reduced by the despatch homeward, first of the cruiser *Pallas*, then of the cruiser *Crescent*, next of the gunboat *Pigeon* to the Indian Station, while now the cruiser *Gibraltar* is leaving for home, to be followed in a few days by the cruiser *Severn*. The much talked of replacement of the hulk *Victor Emanuel* by the battle ship *Nelson* has not taken place, and the Squadron will no doubt soon be further weakened by the return of the *Edgar*, *Spartan*, and *Aolus*, in which event its last state will be worse than its first.

Meantime the French Squadron has been materially increased, and the new vessels have not been ordered home again. Presumably the British Government has good reasons for placing implicit reliance on Russian assurances, and it may be desirable to give Japan proofs of trust, but there are other ways, we submit, of showing confidence in our friends which would, in the presence of possible dangers, at present unsuspected, be safer of adoption. The saying attributed to the great PROTECTOR, "Put your trust in God; but mind to keep your powder dry," may well be laid to heart in the present instance. Russia may be our Providence, but nevertheless it will be prudent to be prepared for any emergency. We have not only Russia to consider in the present crisis. That extremely touchy neighbour of ours across the English Channel, who is for ever on the watch to discover evidences of perfidy and bad faith on our part, cannot, unfortunately, be trusted owing to her ceaseless

jealousy and suspicion. Then we have to provide for possibilities, which include, as one outcome of the war, the contingency of anarchy in China, in which case we should require all the vessels sent out, and more, to protect British subjects and trade in the Chinese Treaty ports. There is, moreover, a larger question gradually looming on the horizon. If the present peace negotiations fail and the war goes on for months, as it may, until Peking, Nanking, and possibly Canton fall into the hands of the Japanese, may not a settlement of the quarrel involve the breaking up of the present Chinese empire? We do not believe that it is either the wish or the intention of the Japanese Government to destroy the present Manchu Government, for they will naturally wish to have some stable Government with which to conclude the terms of peace, when they are eventually decided upon; but events may be too strong for them. It is one thing to call, as the Peking Government has called into existence over a hundred thousand troops, but it will not be so easy to pay and disband them. There will be the danger of these undisciplined hordes, having arms in their hands, turning upon the Government, sacking the cities, and creating civil war. In that case the Foreign Powers would have to step in, and might find it necessary to administer parts or even the whole of the Empire. Great Britain ought assuredly, in such a case, seeing that her interests in China so greatly preponderate over those of all other nations, to take her full share in any action that may be essential to preserve peace and order in the Central Kingdom. She ought also to be ready to assert and maintain her rights if, as is not improbable, some alterations in the map of China follow the conclusion of the present conflict.

MANDARIN ARROGANCE AND THE PROSPECT OF REFORM.

Although the Chinese Empire lies to-day practically helpless and well nigh at the mercy of the conquering forces from Dai Nippon, the arrogance of the mandarins towards foreigners of all nations remains undiminished, and the ignorance of the Chinese people away from the coast is as invincible as ever. A Wenchow correspondent relates how he overheard recently a native remark, "They say the foreigners are rebelling, but it must be mere talk," to which the listeners assented, having neither knowledge nor suspicion that a foreign invader was thundering at the gate, having destroyed the first line of Chinese defence. Nor can the common people understand for what purpose the Government require the loan now being raised. The Viceroy of the Two Kwang has had much difficulty in bringing this so-called voluntary loan up to the right side of two million taels. By making concessions to the various guilds in the manner of collecting lekin and other taxes and no doubt also by applying the screw pretty freely the amount has been brought up to nearly two and a half million taels! And this is supposed to be a voluntary contribution to a loan, for which bonds bearing, nominally, good interest are offered! In Wenchow proclamations asking the people to subscribe to a similar loan are posted, and the people venture on mild sneers like the following:—"How poor the Emperor has become, that he must go round begging; who's going to lend him money?" So little sympathy has the Central Government from the people, where they are remote from the influence of Peking, and care nothing for the Emperor or the dynasty. The Emperor represents a tradition rather than a personage or even an entity to the mass of the people, especially those of the southern

provinces, and so long as the hostilities are at a distance and do not directly affect them they feel little or no interest in the course of events. The Peiyang Squadron may be effaced from the seas, the great naval stations captured and destroyed, and Manchuria itself fall into the hand of the invader, but the toilers in the interior of the Empire do not know, and, if told, will not feel these reverses as national disasters or as immediately concerning them.

If this apathy and indifference to the blows which are being showered on the Central Kingdom on the part of its denizens only affected themselves it would matter nothing to the foreigners living on its fringe and engaged in its trade. But unfortunately the Chinese in their ignorance and prejudice having decided that there is nothing good in the "outer barbarians," and having set them down as responsible for the losses that have been suffered, the anti-foreign feeling always existing has only become intensified. A Shanhaikwan incident has just occurred which shows how little the Chinese have profited from their experiences. Four Korean priests were discovered one day looking at one of the temples, and they were promptly seized as Japanese spies, and, despite their protestations of innocence and of Chinese sympathies, they were awarded a thousand strokes with the bamboo, from the effects of which it is thought they cannot recover. About the same time the local mandarins swooped down upon the American Methodist Mission premises, which they subjected to a minute search, in the course of which they carried off a quantity of sycee, dragged the native preacher and the chapel keeper off to the yamen, and detained them there all night. At Wenchow, too, the officials have taken up a strong anti-foreign attitude, having seemingly determined to prevent any European acquiring any land at the port, as notices have been sent to the *tipaos* instructing them not to allow any such sale or transfer of land. This is a new development at Wenchow. In no part of China do foreigners find the officials at all more disposed to do them justice, or to make concessions than was the case before the war, at which time mandarin obstructiveness appeared to have reached a climax. *Experientia docet* is a maxim that does not apply in China, so far as the officials are concerned at any rate, and there is every reason to believe that, if peace were now concluded on terms fairly favourable to China, in a few years all the lessons of the war would be forgotten, and official arrogance would be more pronounced than ever. Even now the mandarins still refer officially to the Japanese as the "dwarf pirates," or *wo-jen*, and still offer rewards for Japanese captured or killed, placards to that effect having only lately been posted at Shanhaikwan.

There is some disposition among the Manchus to inaugurate reforms, if the Peking correspondents of our Shanghai morning contemporaries are well informed, and the young Emperor is strongly in favour of sweeping administrative changes being made, but it is very doubtful whether either His Majesty or any of his relatives has the power to institute them, or to effectively fight against the *vis inertia* of the Chinese, which is sufficient to paralyse the efforts and wear out the enthusiasm of a far more energetic mind than that of the delicate youth who now occupies the Dragon Throne. The correspondent above referred to very truly remarks:—"The Manchus and Chinese do not draw together; the former are progressive, the latter conservative. The country is one vast jelly-fish without

"backbone and without nerves; the injury to one part is not felt at the other extremity. Each official has his own particular selfish aims and those of his family to advance; he cares nothing for his country or its interests. His sole ambition is to acquire wealth and retire from office and leave the responsibility of his deeds, misgovernment, and corruption upon his successor. There is the entire absence of any *esprit de corps*." Just so, and because the Chinese form the mass while the Manchus are few and wanting in perseverance the desire for reform will not go much beyond the aspiration for a better state of things. As we have frequently contended, there is practically no hope for the success of reforms or ameliorative measures in China unless introduced in obedience to pressure from without. Will that pressure be applied? We doubt it if a peace is hastily patched up through foreign intervention. China has still something to learn; she has not yet been humbled sufficiently to be willing to sit at the feet of a Western Gabriel and learn how to order her affairs. Indeed it has yet to be demonstrated that, in her present condition, she is teachable at all. The vanity and conceit that have slowly crusted round her through the last four thousand years cannot be brushed off with a first gentle application of the lash of adversity.

CHINA'S CORRUPTION.

At the annual dinner of the China Association Sir EDMUND HORNBY, in proposing one of the toasts, said:—"The humiliating spectacle of a great nation like China falling beneath so comparatively insignificant an antagonist as Japan was the result of the bastard culture which that nation boasted, and which crushed all that was original and noble in the life blood of men; and, moreover, it entirely crushed all administrative ability in the nation, and substituted for it a monstrous system of deceit, jobbery, and corruption. It was not many years ago that an eminent officer in the Army expressed the opinion that it was possible the Chinese might overrun the world with their philosophy, their civilization, and their culture. And now it was a question—an infinitely more serious question—whether China would continue to exist even as a nation." In speaking of the deceit, jobbery, and corruption of China Sir EDMUND hit the nail on the head. And the most discouraging feature in the situation is that there is no reform party in the country. True a pending revolution in favour of reform has been spoken of, but that is merely a dream, a vain imagination, of a few Hongkong Chinese without appreciable power or influence in their own country. It is not impossible that we may ere long see internal strife break out in China, though the absence hitherto of any serious sign of rebellion in presence of the crushing defeat the country has sustained renders it less probable than might have been thought a few months ago. But if rebellion does break out its motive will not be a general desire to establish purity in the administration. That is an idea quite foreign to the Chinese mind. A Chinaman objects to be squeezed, but has no objection to squeezing others, and his highest ambition is to obtain an official position which will afford him opportunities of doing so. There is perhaps a certain amount of latent patriotism in his system which might under certain circumstances break out in an attempt to throw off the Manchu yoke and establish a native dynasty; but the dispossession of the present occupant of the Dragon Throne would not mean a national regeneration.

The Manchus are generally credited with being somewhat more honest than the Chinese, but that is immaterial to the argument, because the system of administration which prevails is essentially Chinese and not a foreign system introduced by the conquerors. The squeezing under which the Chinese in every province groan is practised not so much by Manchu as by Chinese officials, the latter being in an immense majority. The common people might be induced to join in a rebellion under an idea that a change in the Government would lessen the load of taxation, or that opportunities of plunder would present themselves while a revolution was in progress or that when things settled down again they might themselves be found in the seat of the squeezer; but as for any idea of fighting for an abstract principle of right, nothing could be much further removed from the average Chinaman's mind. But it is certain that the present system of corruption cannot continue for ever. Mr. W. KESWICK said at the annual meeting of the China Association, unless China puts her house in order she will be torn to pieces, and it will become only a matter of time, unless she assimilates modern ideas and makes herself strong as a nation by progressive improvement, for her to be conquered as India was conquered. That would be the best possible thing that could happen to China; for if the country were administered as India is administered what unlimited possibilities of commercial and industrial development would be opened up to her. But the international jealousies of the great Powers would prevent any one of them entering on the wholesale conquest of the country, though one of them may take a slice of territory here and another a slice there, until China, in obedience to the law of self-preservation, is compelled to place the work of reforming her administration in the hands of foreigners, as she has already placed the control of her foreign Customs establishment.

REGISTRATION OF COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

In his letter published in another column Mr. E. ROBINSON suggests that the Government should establish a corps of concierges, or house-porters, state paid, and that if necessary one should be put in each coolie house to look after the cleaning and the drains, and the open windows, and the register of inmates, and the other hundred and one things that may be required to be done. This suggestion is made as an alternative to registration, the objection to which gave rise to the now happily concluded strike. But before the concierges could be placed where their services are required the lodging houses would necessarily have to be registered, otherwise it would not be known which were lodging houses and which were not, which brings us back to the first position. In fact what Mr. ROBINSON'S proposal implies is not only that there should be registration but that a policeman called by another name should be permanently billeted in each lodging-house. What the coolies, and especially the lodging house keepers, would think of a proposal of that kind may be easily imagined. It has been suggested also that the Government should build and conduct lodging houses of its own. That is rather a taking idea on the surface. We know what improvements have been effected in the common lodging houses of England where the local authorities have done their duty in the matter, and if similar improvements could be effected in Hongkong it would give cause for great satisfaction. But we have an

idea that the coolies would fight shy of Government lodging houses and that if such establishments were set up they would be allowed to stand vacant like the Government laundries. Whatever improvements it may be possible ultimately to effect in the lodging of coolies, however, the first, the most important, and, indeed, an indispensable step, is a rigid system of registration. The Government and the Sanitary Board have been proceeding on right lines in this matter and we trust they will not deviate from the course on which they have entered. For the Government's conduct in the matter of the strike we have nothing but praise. Whether the strictures passed by His Excellency on the mercantile community in the recently published letter from the Colonial Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce were altogether deserved or not we are not now concerned to inquire. The Government has done its duty; whether the foreign firms have all done their individual duty in the same matter may be left to themselves to determine.

No doubt we have all a good deal to learn about coolie lodging houses, and without a system of registration it would be impossible ever to acquire the desired information. And it must be registration by the keeper, not the landlord, for the latter knows nothing about the matter and it would be impossible to hold him responsible for the observance of all the details of the by-laws. This appears so self-evident as hardly to admit of discussion. Having got the coolie houses registered, then, and registered by the keepers, the next step for the Government to take, concurrently with the enforcement of the sanitary by-laws, is to gather information as to the character of the houses and the nature of the agreements subsisting between the keeper and the lodgers. This information will probably be collected more conveniently by the police and sanitary officers working quietly and unobtrusively than by any formally appointed committee of inquiry. At the conference at Government House on Saturday Mr. DENNIS said:—"The person called the tenant in this Ordinance is simply a head coolie. The other coolies, say, are getting 10 or 20 cents; he is getting 20 or 40 cents a day. Is that the sort of man to go to the Sanitary Board as to the house and make a report about it?" Mr. DENNIS, we suspect, was speaking rather from impression than from definite knowledge. Our own impression is that the keeper is as a rule a very different sort of man from that represented by the above remarks. He may perhaps be correctly described as a head coolie, but his position and income are such as to place a considerable distance between him and the ordinary coolie. There are, of course, various grades of lodging houses here as there are elsewhere. The beggars that we see about the streets have to pay something for their lodging, so have the decrepit coolies who can with difficulty earn enough to keep body and soul together. There are houses that cater for this class and they are kept probably by men who make only a slender pittance out of the business. But on a plane above there are the ordinary coolie lodging houses, the keepers of which are really the employers of the coolies, letting them out in gangs as may be required by stevedores and others, while in some cases the stevedores themselves are the keepers, taking the men's earnings, supplying them with necessities on the truck system, giving them very little in hard cash, and making for themselves a profit far in excess of the small amounts mentioned by Mr. DENNIS. These men we believe to be a considerable power in the colony, having the great bulk of the labouring class absolutely under their thumb. Whether they were altogether responsible for

the strike just concluded or were themselves acting in obedience to orders received from a class above them will probably never be ascertained, but it is certain the coolies themselves did not originate the strike and that they would have been glad at any time to have returned to work, as also would some of the stevedores, but they said they were afraid that they would be killed or beaten if they did so. What was the power that thus completely terrorised them and brought the business of the colony almost to a standstill for over a week? No one seems to know. The registration of the common lodging houses, however, will probably throw some light on the conditions under which the coolie class live and work in this colony and will enable the Government to take steps for the improvement of those conditions where improvement appears necessary or desirable.

PROPOSED LICENSING OF PRIVATE VEHICLES.

(14th April.)

At the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 28th ult. a Bill was read a first time entitled "An Ordinance for regulating the Licensing of Private Vehicles." According to the Acting Attorney-General's remarks in introducing it, the object of the Bill is "to provide for the due regulation of traffic in the public streets in regard specially to private vehicles, and more particularly with regard to trucks, carts, and trollies, which are daily becoming a growing nuisance." We shall refer later on to the question of trucks, carts, and trollies, but propose in the first instance to notice the effect of the Bill with regard to other vehicles. It is provided that in the construction of the Ordinance "private vehicle" is to include all carriages, carts, waggons-trucks, and all other vehicles which do not require to be licensed under Ordinance 21 of 1887 except private jinrickshas, private chairs, and bicycles. It will be observed that although bicycles are exempted tricycles are not, neither are perambulators, and for these vehicles, if the Bill passes, a licence will have to be taken out. Private carriages are expressly included in the Bill, so that the owner of a private carriage will have to take out a licence just like the owner of a public jinricksha or street chair and under certain circumstances the licence will be forfeitable. It has usually been considered that every Englishman was at liberty to keep a carriage as of right if he could afford to do so, but the Hongkong Government, in its overflowing sapience, is going to do away with any foolish idea of that kind. If any of our merchant princes or festive public servants revelling in a three shilling dollar wants to keep a dog cart or a carriage and pair he must take out a licence and be brought under due control. Which would seem to show that the framer of the Bill did not know what he was doing, for he could never have intended to subject members of the service to any such indignity—just after getting three shillings to the dollar, too. In England carriages are taxed, but their possession is not subject to a forfeitable licence. In Hongkong we will have the Government proposing next that a man must take out a licence before he can occupy a house. As regards the proposed carriage licence, it is provided in the Bill that "the granting of all such licences shall be in the discretion of the officer appointed to issue the same," subject to a right of appeal to the Governor, and if the holder offends against the Ordinance or against any regulation made thereunder he is to be liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty-five dollars. "Any

"licence may be forfeited on the conviction of the holder thereof for any offence if the officer who issued the licence shall think fit." All this seems very absurd, as applied to private carriages. A person owning a carriage is of course liable to be sued civilly should he carelessly run over any one or do other damage, but this attempt to bring him immediately under police control like the jinricksha and chair coolies, is quite a new departure. As to requiring the owner of a perambulator to take out a licence, the idea is ridiculous. It might not be so bad if a licence were required for the baby, but if babies are allowed to be kept without a licence surely we might tolerate the perambulator, too.

We are told, however, that the Bill is designed more particularly with regard to "trucks, carts, and trollies, which are daily becoming a growing nuisance." The Bill has been introduced at a time when people's minds are chiefly occupied with the strike, and it has probably not received much attention from either the unofficial members of the Legislative Council or the parties who would be immediately affected by it. We trust, however, it will not be allowed to pass into law without some consideration of the principle involved. If there is a tendency on the part of the Chinese to take to the carriage of goods on wheels rather than on their shoulders it does not strike us as a thing to be specially legislated against. It should rather be taken as a sign of progress. That carts, trucks, and trollies are from certain points of view a nuisance is undeniable. In the same way the owner of a smart turn-out in England may deem it a nuisance that the road on which he happens to be driving should be also occupied by coal carts, furniture vans, market waggons, and so on, but no one would think of prohibiting vehicles of that kind or of dealing with them as nuisances in the legal sense of the term. So in this colony it is much more important for business generally that no restrictions should be placed on the carriage of goods and merchandise than that the road should be kept clear for the driver of a dog cart or for pedestrians who prefer to walk in the middle of the street instead of on the footpaths. A business thoroughfare cannot be kept quite the same as a drive in a gentleman's park, and the legislature should pause before it imposes restrictions on business merely to consult the comfort of a few. As to the accidents that occasionally happen with trollies and trucks, they are regrettable of course, but wherever there is wheeled traffic there always will be accidents. People are run over every day in London, but no one would propose to do away with vehicular traffic on that account and enact that all goods that have to be conveyed from one place to another must be borne on men's shoulders. The owners of trucks and trollies, like the owners of carriages, are liable to be sued at law for any damage they may do, and it seems inexpedient that their liability should be increased by the risk of being driven out of business by "the officer who issued the licence" thinking fit to forfeit it. The regulation of street traffic is of course a necessity, and in Hongkong it is very badly done, but the Bill now under consideration is not the way to deal with the matter. It might be well to require the owners of carts, trucks, and trollies to have their names on their vehicles, as is the case with carts at home, so that in case of any offence being committed or damage done the owner could be readily got at, but there ought to be no question of making it dependent on the will of an individual officer whether a man may or may not carry on the business of carrying goods on trucks. That

should be looked upon as a legitimate form of business open to any one who chooses to engage in it. Then, again, the Bill as it stands would not only affect the Chinese, but various European concerns as well. The Hongkong and Kowloon Godown Company would have to take out a licence for each of the trucks running on the tramway in connection with its godowns at Kowloon, the soda water trucks that we see about the streets, the Ice Company's cart, and the trollies used in connection with the various machine shops and shipbuilding establishments would all have to be licensed, and the licences would all be subject to forfeiture if the officer who issued the licence should think fit. The Ordinance seems to us altogether inadvisable both as regards its principle and its details, and we trust the motion for its second reading at this afternoon's meeting of Council will be negatived.

[The Bill was not proceeded with at the meeting of the Legislative Council.]

A WEAK CHARGE OF PLAGIARISM

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD is accused by the *N. C. Daily News* of having in his recent paper on the "Critical condition of British Trade with Oriental Countries" plagiarised the publications of the Eastern Bimetallic League. It appears that Mr. WHITEHEAD in giving certain extracts from the Chinese Customs Reports has included some explanatory notes given in parenthesis in connection with the same extracts in a paper by Mr. TALBOT. A ready explanation might be found for that. Probably Mr. WHITEHEAD, not wishing to mutilate his copy of the Customs report, cut out the extracts from a print of Mr. TALBOT's paper and allowed the explanatory notes to remain. For the latter Mr. TALBOT, if he chose to insist upon it, might be held entitled to an acknowledgment, but it would be carrying the principle of literary copyright rather to an extreme. Another instance given is the following. Mr. WETMORE wrote:—"Prior to the breaking up of the Latin Union the currencies of the West and the East were welded together by a fixed ratio. . . . This ratio had been established and held good all over the world, so to speak, from time out of mind; and thus it came about that the wages of labour in gold countries had gradually adjusted themselves to the gold standard, in the silver countries to the silver standard; and a relationship between the wages of the two countries had become established. This relationship lasted so long as the above ratio was maintained, and the acts which destroyed the bond existing between gold and silver broke up the connection existing between the labour of the West and that of the East." Mr. WHITEHEAD writes:—"During the period when the standard was in force it gave to the world a common measure of value in gold and silver. Under this system the wages of labour in gold countries, and in silver countries, were adjusted; in fact, a relationship was established between the wages of labour in the East and the West, according to the ratio then existing between gold and silver, and they adjusted themselves thereunder to each other. In 1873 the international bond connecting gold and silver, which had justly given an equality to European and Asiatic labour and to all trading relations, was broken."

No originality can be claimed for the view expressed in the above extracts, which is the common property of bimetallicists, and it does not seem that there is sufficient resemblance in the form of expression to justify a charge of appropriating another man's literary pro-

erty. Mr. WHITEHEAD's paper no doubt affords evidence that he has read and studied the publications of the Eastern Bimetallic League, but that is not quite the same thing as plagiarism. If so, the League's writers might themselves be charged with plagiarism, for the ideas expressed in their publications might all, or nearly all, be found in the previously published writings of other bimetallicists. The subject, in fact, is one on which there is little that is absolutely new to be said. Now and then some man of original mind strikes out a new idea, but the general body of bimetallic literature consists in rolling round the same old ideas and presenting them in such forms as may be calculated to attract the attention of a particular set of readers. The *N. C. Daily News* tells us that "Those who look for some new and instructive matter in Mr. WHITEHEAD's paper are likely to be disappointed." Those who look for new matter will certainly be disappointed, but those who look for instructive matter will find their fill of it. The paper is packed with instructive matter and valuable statistics, and, although all his deductions may not be accepted, the hon. gentleman merits warm thanks for a very valuable contribution to the discussion of the currency question. His paper has attracted widespread attention at home, which ought to afford satisfaction to the Eastern Bimetallic League, since its object is the spread of bimetallic views. The jealousy of of that body seems to us therefore rather childish. Some time ago the League proposed to send a delegate to England to expound the bimetallic doctrine. No official delegate was sent, because the funds were not forthcoming; but Mr. WHITEHEAD having voluntarily undertaken the work, though not specially accredited, and having done it so well, deserves hearty recognition.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 4th April. Present:—

His Excellency the Governor, Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON, K.C.M.G.

Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, Colonial Secretary.

Hon. A. J. LEACH, Acting Attorney-General.

Hon. F. A. COOPER, Director of Public Works.

Hon. A. M. THOMPSON, Acting Colonial Treasurer.

Hon. R. M. RUMSEY, Harbour Master.

Hon. C. P. CHATER.

Hon. HO KAI.

Hon. J. J. KESWICK.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS, C.M.G.

Hon. A. MCCONACHIE.

Mr. A. Seth Clerk of Councils.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid upon the table the report of the proceeding of the Finance Committee held on 28th March; and Financial minute No. 10 was referred to the Finance Committee.

THE SANITARY BY-LAWS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I have to move that an additional by-law made under Section 13 of Ordinance 15 of 1894 be approved by this Council. The Council will remember at the last meeting but one a number of by-laws made under this section were approved by this Council. Among those by-laws there was one which did not then meet with the approval of the Council and it was decided that it should be referred back to the Sanitary Board for reconsideration. The Sanitary Board has reconsidered the by-law and it is now transmitted for the approval of this Council in a form which, I trust, will meet with the approval of all members of the Council.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to second that.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—I am well satisfied with the by-law as it now stands.

Carried.

AN ORDINANCE REPEALED.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the first reading of a Bill entitled an Or-

dinance to repeal Ordinance No. 1 of 1864 entitled "An Ordinance to provide for conversion of British Currency in all payments by or to the Government." The object of the Bill is to remove from the statute book this Ordinance which relates to the conversion of British currency, and which has practically become a dead letter by reason of the proclamation which was published in the *Gazette* on Saturday last. The proclamation, in terms, repeals this Ordinance, but it is considered better that the legislature which passed that Ordinance should also repeal it. I beg to move the first reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to second. Bill read a first time.

A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I have to move the second reading of the Immigration Ordinance. I stated on the last occasion that certain amendments had been proposed by the Sanitary Board, and that they had not then received the consideration they deserved, and I thought it would be desirable that they should be more fully considered before the Bill was read a second time. The amendments proposed have been generally accepted by the Government, and they are incorporated in the draft Bill before the Council to-day. The object of the Bill is, as I have stated, to enable the Governor in Council to prohibit the immigration of Chinese from any infected place where the bubonic plague prevails or exists. The Sanitary Board has recommended the extension of this to cholera, smallpox, and such other serious diseases which may be notified in the *Gazette*, and probably that extension, if the Bill is passed, will meet with the general approval of the Council. There are other small details and amendments they propose, but there is one more substantial amendment. They propose that the Governor should not only have the power to prohibit the importation of Chinese by sea, but by land also. That also has also been adopted in the Bill. The prevention of plague is all important, not only to the welfare of the colony, but to the trade of the port. If the general impression be true that the plague came here, or was imported here last year, and did not, as it were, grow in the place, some power ought to be conferred upon the Governor to restrict the immigration, by land or by sea, of those who are likely to import it, or whose luggage and clothing might be brought here with germs of the disease in it. It may possibly temporarily prove hard or injurious to ship-owners and traders in the colony; but you will see from the Bill that this is only a temporary measure; it is not to be a permanent measure. The restriction is to last for such time as may be fixed by the Governor in Council. Quarantine, we are told by medical officers, to be really effectual, must be complete, that quarantine under local circumstances, and with the many possibilities of evading it, cannot be effectual as it is carried out in this colony. Therefore it is necessary for the Governor to come to Council for larger power of restriction which is the object of this Bill. I think hon. members will agree with this. I believe the senior unofficial member wishes to make some addition or alteration in a clause of the Bill, but it is not probable that the Governor in Council would issue a proclamation of this description unless there is very serious reason to believe that the introduction of the plague, or other disease such as is mentioned, is likely. I think the Governor in Council must be given the credit for taking the greatest consideration and the deepest care if it is deemed necessary to issue a proclamation. I believe the hon. the senior unofficial member wishes in some way, before the proclamation is put in force, that it should come before a meeting of the Legislative Council. He can easily adapt that clause, or introduce words into the clause which will prevent the proclamation coming into effect hastily. There must, however, always be some delay if the Legislative Council have to be called together. I have no doubt that it will receive every consideration when the Bill comes before Committee. With these remarks I beg to move the second reading of the Bill.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Bill read a second time, and Council went into Committee. On the reading the first clause,

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS said—This is a matter which affects especially the shipping interests, and it will be wise, I think, to insert after the word

Governor, "in the Legislative Council;" so that the line will read "Governor in the Legislative Council." I am sure all unofficial members have been at the beck and call of your Excellency, and if we were asked to assemble, even if the notice was only an hour's notice, we were never reluctant to come here; and I think it will be wise if we are allowed an opportunity to express an opinion in the event of the necessity to prohibit or regulate immigration.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—The Acting Attorney-General informed us a little while ago that the unofficial members were anxious to introduce a few words into the clause which has just been read. The unofficial members met at a meeting called this forenoon at the request of my hon. friend opposite, and consequently it is he who moves the amendment. The object, sir, in trying to have this proclamation issued by the advice of the Legislative Council, and not the Governor in Council, is to strengthen your Excellency's hands. The clause reads as follows—"Whenever the Governor in Council shall be satisfied that the bubonic plague, cholera, small-pox," &c. The Governor in Council is the Governor in Executive Council, whereas the amendment proposed by my hon. friend opposite is that the words shall be altered to "Governor in Legislative Council," which includes all your own officials and the representatives of the public in the persons of the unofficial members. Therefore, I think, as far as your Excellency is concerned, it would strengthen your Excellency's hand to have the proclamation issued by the Legislative Council. I have very great pleasure in seconding the amendment. Probably the wording of it might not be quite as proposed by the hon. member, but the Attorney-General may put it in proper form. I suggest, "by the advice or recommendation of the Legislative Council."

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—The meaning of Governor in Council is the Governor in Executive Council.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—With regard to the proposed amendment, it appears to me to be undesirable. It has been stated clearly that the Governor in Council would issue no proclamation unless satisfied that these diseases are in existence, and that the proclamation is necessary. The hon. the unofficial member said that the object of the amendment was to strengthen the Governor's hand. I really fail to see how calling together an assembly of the Legislative Council in a matter of this kind would in any way strengthen the Governor's hands. The object of the proclamation is to prevent Chinese coming into this colony from an infected port. Before any proclamation of the kind is issued the Governor would ascertain all the facts. I do not see how the Governor's hands would be strengthened by calling a meeting of the unofficial members, who have a very large knowledge of matters connected with this colony, but of such matters as diseases they have absolutely none.

Hon. HO KAI—I am in favour of the amendment, because I think it is as easy for the Government to summon a meeting of the Legislative Council as to summon a meeting of the Executive Council. There is no doubt that the public, or a certain number of them, would have more confidence if the Government would summon them or their representatives, together with the Executive Council, before such a proclamation is issued, and for this reason I should have supposed that the Government would not oppose the amendment of the unofficial members. There is no reason why the wishes of the unofficial members should not be complied with; at least I can see none and we have heard of none. The Legislative Council can be summoned and assembled at an hour's notice, quite as easily as the Executive Council, and whether your Excellency's hands are strengthened or not by summoning the Legislative Council instead of the Executive Council is a matter of opinion, but I am quite sure the public would regard it as in some measure the proper course to be taken. In that way we could see that the Government took proper care, and that there was necessity for the proclamation before issuing it. I hope that the Government will, in this instance, see that the wishes of the unofficial members are complied with.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—May I make a suggestion? Instead of calling this, as it evidently would be called, a meeting of the Legislative Council formed in this Chamber,

would it meet the wishes of the unofficial members if they were called in consultation with the Governor in Executive Council? It is not usual for a proclamation to be issued by the Legislative Council, at least I can think of no instance where a proclamation has been issued by the Governor in Legislative Council. The Legislative Council legislates. Without proper reason for it I am doubtful if it would be a proper course to allow or to give power to the Governor in Legislative Council to issue a proclamation.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—I think that would suit us admirably, and I was going to suggest it, but I thought it was not possible. Our great object was that your Excellency should have the opinions not only of the official but also of the unofficial members before issuing the proclamation.

His EXCELLENCY—It will always give me a great deal of pleasure to allow one or two members of the Legislative Council to assist me before issuing a proclamation of this nature.

The clause was then passed after a slight alteration had been made.

The Bill was passed through committee, read a third time, and passed.

THE ARMS BILL.

The Council then went into Committee on the Arms Bill.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL said that the hon. member opposite (Hon. C. P. Chater) had kindly given notice that certain persons exempted from serving as jurors would, as the Bill was framed, come under its provisions instead of being exempted as previously. He had therefore introduced alterations to exempt such persons as are exempted by law from serving on the jury on account of their avocation or profession.

Hon. C. P. CHATER seconded and the alteration was agreed to.

The HARBOUR MASTER pointed out that Volunteers were not mentioned in the Bill. Were Volunteers considered in military service when they were not actually at drill or called out? They had arms in their possession.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I do not know whether under the Army Acts they do come within the definition of military in the Acts. I believe they do in England, but I do not know whether they do here.

Clause 5, on which the question arose, was accordingly amended by the addition of the words "naval, or military, or volunteer, or civil service."

Hon. A. McCONACHIE proposed that the words "in course of transshipment" be added, thus rendering it unnecessary for shipping firms and merchants to take out a licence for arms which were being transhipped. It would be a great inconvenience and delay to shippers and merchants if they had to take out a licence every time they transhipped cargo. He thought the words proposed could very well be inserted.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL said he had only one objection to the words being added and that was that arms must be under the cognisance of the police, who, if licences were not taken out, would not know where the arms were.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I think it is most important that the police should know when arms are arriving in this colony. These arms can be landed and kept, but it is for an indefinite period. I think it is very important that the police should know where the arms are.

Hon. A. McCONACHIE—If business is to be trammelled with so many conditions it will be impossible to carry on business in the colony at all.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I do not quite understand about trammelling commerce. There is no desire to trammel commerce. The object of the Bill is to protect the interest and the good order of this colony. You cannot say it is trammelling commerce to let the police know where the arms are situated. I understand that my hon. friend opposite would have no objection whatever to have an arrangement whereby the police should be informed. "Trammelling commerce" is a somewhat exaggerated term.

Hon. J. J. KESWICK quite recognised the importance of the police knowing where the arms were transhipped; the authorities should be aware of the fact. (Hear hear). He quite saw, on the other hand, that if arms arrived here and were landed at the wharves on the other side and remained two or three days or two or three weeks that it would cause a great deal of unnecessary trouble to take out a licence.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY did not suggest that it was absolutely necessary to get a licence, but there should be some clause inserted so that the police should be notified where the arms were.

Hon. A. McCONACHIE replied that he should be quite willing that merchants should be required to notify the police, but not that they should be put to the necessity of taking out a licence.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Government will accept that arrangement.

The clause thereupon stood over.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL said there were other objections to the Bill, as the retail Chinese dealers thought it was very hard for them in many instances if they had to take out a licence. Many of their purchasers were out of the colony, and it was therefore proposed that if the purchaser was not a resident, an export permit be obtained from the Captain Superintendent of Police in order that the police might know whether the arms were going from the colony. Several gentlemen, who were introduced by Hon. J. J. Keswick, interviewed him yesterday, and objected to this proposal, as it would cause great trouble and inconvenience to have to go to the police, and they suggested that they should substitute for the police the Superintendent of Imports and Exports—the Harbour Master. It was also suggested that the Harbour Master should send a duplicate of the permit to the police. An amendment was then drawn in these terms. They did not ask to be exempted in the case of any small arms sold for a sum under \$5. Of course this would throw extra work upon the Harbour Master.

Hon. R. M. RUMSEY said he did not mind that. But he thought the police should be acquainted at once when permits were granted, as if he granted a permit and then sent a duplicate to the police, no one would know where the arms were by the time the police got the duplicate, as the man would have gone away and there was no guarantee that the arms had been exported at all.

It was thereupon decided to let the clause stand over. Clause 15 also stood over, as part of it was affected by clause 6.

Council resumed.

THE WATER ORDINANCE.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Water Ordinance, and explained one or two clauses.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—I have the honour to second the second reading of the Bill. The main object in making these additional laws is to enable those premises in which the prescribed domestic limit was exceeded, and which were liable under the old Ordinance to have their supply cut off, to have the supply continued with a meter attached. It has been necessary during the past two years to disconnect a very large number of houses, and every one will agree that the cutting off entirely of water on premises is not to be advocated on sanitary grounds. At the same time every precaution has been taken before cutting off that supply to fix street hydrants in close proximity to the premises. Thus obstacles were not put in the way of sanitary maintenance, which we all are so very anxious to meet, especially in the Chinese quarter. The Act also provides for meters for houses outside the city of Victoria, and houses at Kowloon, and in the outlying districts, where most of the premises are more or less isolated, and not tenement dwellings.

Bill read a second time, and Council went into Committee.

Hon. C. P. CHATER thought it would be rather hard upon the landlord or houseowner being responsible for the consumption of water by his tenant.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL said there was nothing new in that. The owner was inserted in the Ordinance of 1890.

Hon. C. P. CHATER said that owners were suffering enough already, without having an additional burden thrown upon them.

The clause was passed as it stood.

Hon. E. R. BELILIOS moved that the effect of the Ordinance should be suspended during July, August, and September. It would be a great hardship to have to pay for water during the rainy season when the water was overflowing the reservoirs.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS pointed out that the colony had been put to considerable expense by its water supply, and during a quar-

ter of the year the Government would be deriving absolutely no benefit from the maintenance of the works.

The suggestion fell through and the Bill was read a third time and passed.

THE BUILDING ORDINANCE.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Building Ordinance Amendment Bill, and explained that two sections of the old Ordinance which overlapped were thrown together, and any contravention of the Ordinance would render the offender liable to a fine not exceeding \$100.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS seconded and said that the amendment in the form of notice to be given under section 70 of the existing Ordinance had become necessary owing to the fact that the person giving such notice was not necessarily liable for any contravention of that Ordinance that might occur in the construction of such building or work to which the notice referred, and on the occurrence of each contravention the Director of Public Works had under section 78 to enquire who was the owner of such building or work before he could take steps to abate the nuisance. It was evident that supplying the Director of Public Works with the name of the person responsible for the carrying out of the provisions of the Ordinance at the outset, when the notice was given, was not only a matter of convenience to the person responsible for seeing that the provisions of the Ordinance were duly complied with, but might save much trouble and expense to the owner. Until recently the Ordinance had worked fairly well, but towards the latter part of last year an objection was taken by a firm of architects to enquiries being made as to the owner of certain works at the time the notice was given, and under the existing Ordinance his Excellency supported that objection. Such objections so seriously impeded the work of the officers responsible for seeing that the provisions of the Ordinance were duly complied with that on the return of the Director of Public Works from leave he considered it necessary to point this out and request that steps might be taken in the direction indicated in the present Ordinance.

Bill read a second time and the Council went into committee.

Hon. A. McCONACHIE moved that after the words "the Building Ordinance, 1889," the following be inserted:—"In the event of the information contained in such notice being proved to be materially incorrect, the person signing the same shall be notified to that effect by the Director of Public Works, and if, after stated reasonable time, the information contained in his notice is still found to be incorrect he shall be liable." &c. As the Bill stood at present, the Director of Public Works could, without any notice whatever, summon anyone offending against this Bill and he thought it was only just and reasonable that notice should be served upon them, so that an opportunity would be given of correcting errors and that they might not be summoned before the Police Magistrate. He referred to the by-laws in Leeds and Birmingham, where it was provided that notice should be first served and a reasonable time allowed for the correction of information lodged with the authorities.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS said the notices Mr. McConachie referred to, which were given here just the same as in England, in certain cases, did not apply in this case. Here parties were required to give certain definite information—those parties were perfectly able and in fact were the only persons who could give the information without a considerable amount of trouble. Should it be given incorrectly, it appeared to him on the face of it that it was given purposely incorrect. He could not conceive of any one giving the information incorrectly in this relation, and he did not think it would ever be necessary to enforce the latter part of the section; nevertheless it was necessary to attach a penalty to any breach of the provisions of the Ordinance. Under the circumstances he regretted he was unable to accept the amendment of the hon. member.

Hon. C. P. CHATER seconded the amendment. It was only right and fair that before a person was summoned to the Court he should be informed by notice that the information lodged was incorrect.

Hon. E. R. BELILIOS supported.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS said he could not conceive of any owner in this colony

filling up the form incorrectly. If it was a mere clerical error, of course the attention of the party would be called to it at once.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL pointed out that the words "materially incorrect" had been inserted in the section under discussion.

Hon. C. P. CHATER said this was a matter that had been brought to the notice of the hon. member who represented the Chamber of Commerce by the architects and engineers who were practising here and who would, in the majority of instances, be the responsible people, the owners handing the erection of the buildings to them. He hoped the Government would reconsider the proposal before putting it to the members present.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS said that any architect undertaking this duty had to see that the owner of property, who was really the only person in a position to do so, supplied him with the information required, and he did not see why any public officer should have to go down to the Land Office and look up documents to verify the information supplied by the duly authorised and paid agents of the owners.

Hon. A. McCONACHIE said an accidental mistake might occur.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS said that accidents would not apply and he repudiated the insinuation that the present Director of Public Works or anyone who might fill that position would take advantage of a mistake to take parties before the Police Magistrate.

Hon. E. R. BELILIO said that architects would doubtless be competent enough to know whether they were trenching upon the law, but there were many people in Hongkong who superintended their own buildings without the aid of architects and they might from inexperience commit mistakes for which they might be found fault with.

The following division was taken:—For the Amendment Messrs. McConachie, Belilios, Ho Kai, Keswick, and Chater (5), against the Harbour Master, Director of Public Works, Colonial Treasurer, Acting Attorney-General, Colonial Secretary and Registrar-General, His Excellency the Governor (6).

The amendment was therefore lost.

Council resumed, and the Bill was read a third time and passed.

ALJOURNMENT.

His EXCELLENCY—I do not propose to proceed with the Ordinance for the regulation of private vehicles to-day. The Council adjourns until Thursday next at 3.30.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was then held. The Colonial Secretary presided.

The CHAIRMAN—The only minute I have to bring before you is one in which the Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of \$3,000 for certain additions to the sheep and swine depots, recommended by the Sanitary Board. The vote was agreed to.

SUPREME COURT.

5th April.

IN APPEAL.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT.

THE CHINESE WILL CASE.

Judgment was given in this case, in which the defendants appealed from the decision of His Honour Mr. A. G. Wise.

Yen Lam Si, the plaintiff, was represented by Mr. Sharp and Mr. Phillipino (instructed by Mr. H. J. Holmes), and the defendants, Lo A Sam and another, were represented by Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., instructed by Mr. C. Ewins (for the first defendant), and by Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist (for the second defendant).

The Acting Chief Justice (Hon. W. M. Goodman) said—This is an appeal from the decision of the Acting Puisne Judge upon the construction of the will of one Yui Chow, otherwise called Sui Nam. The case for the defendants, the appellants, was argued on the 28th March by Mr. Francis, Q.C., while Mr. Sharp (with whom was Mr. Phillipino) argued for the respondents. The will in question was dated 1st January, 1888, and was written, in Chinese, on the cover of a book; but, for the purposes of the Appeal, a certain English translation was taken by both parties—the document

the Court had to construe. That document

(except that, for facilitating reference, I have

added numbers to the clauses) was as follows:—

"The party making this will is Yui Chow, other-

wise called Sui Nam. (1) On account of old

age and being afraid that my serious illness may

be attended with unexpected consequences, I

willingly hand over the house property and other

properties I have bought at Hongkong and

money and all to my wife Kwok Kwai and

concubine Lo Shi, who shall control the same

and collect rents. (2) Eldest Son Yuk Ki and

sons of my own blood Yuk Kwan and Yuk Yung

and concubine Ho Shi—several persons—shall

in every case abide by the orders of Kwok

Kwai and shall on no account distribute

the houses and property of me, Yui Chow,

the management of which shall be in the hands

of Kwok Kwai alone. (3) Kwok Kwai

shall also, every month, collect and receive

rents and look after such matters. Should

any debt in the way of loans remain unpaid by

me, Yui Chow, I request that the interest

shall be paid out of the rents and the surplus

money be applied for repayment of debts. (4)

If in future my wife, concubine, and children

and grandchildren shall become uncontrollable

and if any dispute shall arise as regards my estate

it shall be necessary to refer the matter to

the decision of the two persons Tse Sz Pang and

Chan Sz. (5) Let there be no disregard of the

injunctions I am leaving behind." (Witnesses'

names, &c., follow.) The testator died on 21st

May, 1893, and probate was granted to Kwok

Kwai alone on the 1st August, 1893. Kwok

Kai died on 29th October, 1893, and the

defendants are her executors. The plain-

tiff in the suit, Yui Lam Shi (who is not

mentioned in the will) claims administration of

the estate of Yui Chow as "Kit Fat" or first

wife of the testator. The defendants at first

denied that the plainiff was either Kit Fat or

concubine of the testator, but after trial of that

question by a jury it was clearly established

that she was Kit Fat and as such had a *locus*

standi in the suit. It then became necessary to

construe the will. At first, the domicile of the

testator was disputed, but, before the hearing,

it was agreed by the parties that the domicile

should be taken to be Chinese. Thereupon three

other issues, settled between the parties, came on

for decision by the Puisne Judge. These issues

were as follows:—(1) Is there a good bequest on

the face of the will of Yui Chow, deceased, in

favour of Yuk Ki, Yuk Kwan, Yuk Yung, and

the concubine Ho Shi or not? (2) Is there a good

bequest in favour of Kwok Kwai or not? (3) Is

there a good bequest in favour of Lo Shi or not?

After hearing Counsel on both sides the Puisne

Judge held that "whatever might have been the

intention of the testator he had expressed such

intention so vaguely and ambiguously that he, as

Judge, was unable to give force to such expres-

sion; that by holding that Kwok Kwai or Lo Shi

or Yuk Ki or Yuk Kwan or Yuk Yung or Ho

Shi took any beneficial interest under the terms

of the will he would be going further than any

reported case and would be creating an estate

out of scantier materials than any other Judge

had done, and he, therefore, held that Kwok

Kwai and Lo Shi were, under the will, mere

trustees for the persons entitled under the

statute for the distribution of intestates'

estates." Accordingly an order for Adminis-

tration was made. The present appeal is from

that decision. It seems the estate consisted

almost entirely, in this colony, of lease-

hold property, and Kay J. points out in Dun-

can v. Lawson, 41 Chancery Division, p. 397,

"The *lex loci* governs the devolution of im-

mobilia in case of intestacy and that it therefore

governs the question 'as to the persons entitled,

under the distribution, to succeed to any un-

disposed of leaseholds.' The construction of

the will becomes, therefore, of some importance

to the plaintiff, who, as Kit Fat, would become

entitled to her share of any leasehold property,

the beneficial interest of which was not disposed

of by the will. Mr. Francis contended before the

Puisne Judge mainly, that Kwok Kwai and Lo

Shi were beneficially entitled under the terms of

the will to a life interest with, possibly,

a power of appointment and that the per-

sons entitled at the expiration of that in-

terest either by such appointment or in

default thereof were the four persons men-

tioned in the will, viz., Yuk Ki, Yuk Kwan, Yuk

Yung, and Ho Shi, and that the testator had,

further, made arrangements for the settlement of

possible disputes. On the argument on the ap-

peal, without giving up that alternative conten-

tion, he mainly contended that clause 1 of the

will gave the property absolutely, not merely

for a life interest, beneficially, to Kwok Kwai

and Lo Shi, and that clause 3 constituted Kwok

Kwai executrix with directions to pay debts, and

that as there was nothing to deprive Kwok

Kwai and Lo Shi of that beneficial interest, no

limit imposed on the previous absolute gift, Kwok

Kwai and Lo Shi, subject to payment of debts,

took, beneficially, the whole property. A great

many cases were cited on both sides during the

arguments on appeal, and though I have considered

them I do not know that they greatly assist in

the construction of this particular will, because in

no case were the terms of the testaments there

considered precisely or approximately similar to

the wording of the will in question. Several

of those cases cited were those of alleged "preca-

tory trusts," where it was held that an absolute

beneficial gift was not to be transformed into a

trust simply because of certain precatory words

where, having regard to the whole will, a trust

was not intended. But if those cases are looked

at, it will be seen that there were, in the first

place, words indicating that the donee was to

take beneficially. In the case *re Adams and the*

Kensington Vestry, 27 Chancery D. 394

(which virtually overruled the decision of *V.*

C. Hall in Curcio v. Tucker, L. R. 17

Eq. 320), the testator gave all his real

and personal estate unto and to the absolute

use of his wife, her heirs, executors, adminis-

trators, and assigns, in full confidence that they

would do what was right as to the disposal there-

of between his children either in her life time or

by will after her decease, and it was held the

widow took an absolute interest in the property

unfettered by any trust in favour of the chil-

dren. So in *Lambe v. Eames*, L. R. 6 Chancery

597, where the testator gave his estate to his

widow "to be at her disposal in any way she

may think best for the benefit of herself and

family, it was held no trust was created. The

cases of *Mackett v. Mackett*, 14 Eq. 49, of *re*

Diggles, *Gregory v. Edmondson*, 39 Ch. D. 253,

of *Mussoorie Bank v. Raynor*, 7 App. Cases 321,

of *Stead v. Mellor*, 5 Ch. D. 225, and some

others cited, come under the same principle.

In *Cole v. Hawes*, 1 Ch. D. 233, the testator "be-

queathed property to his wife and for her to do

justice to those relations on my side, such as

she thinks worthy of remuneration, but under

no restriction to any stated property, but quite

as liberty to give and distribute what and to

whom she may please;" and it was held, on

demurrer, that no precatory trust was created.

So in the case *In re Hutchinson and Tenant*, 8

Chancery D. 540, a testator gave all his property

to his wife "absolutely with full power for her

to dispose of the same as she may think fit for

the benefit of my family, having full confidence

that she will do so," and Jessel, M. R., following

Lambe v. Eames, held the wife took absolutely

and that no trust was created. In the course of

his judgment he says:—"His widow is to have

power to give the property to any one she may

think fit; she is to be complete owner of the pro-

perty, but he expects her to dispose of it among

his family, that is, his children. There is no

occasion to tell her that she is to provide

for herself, there being already a prior abso-

lute gift to her. If you make the power over-

ride the absolute gift the wife gets nothing,

for you could then only give her an interest

by inserting in the power something which is

not there, namely, the word "wife." If you do

not put in that word you make her a trustee for

the testator's family; that is, his children only,

for there is no reported case in which the word

"family" when used by a married man has been

held to include his wife as well as his children.

In *Crockett v. Crockett*, 2 Phil. 553, where the

testator directed that all his property should be

at the disposal of his wife for herself and children,

the real point decided was that the wife and

children were not joint tenants. Lord Colten-

ham, however, was of opinion that the wife had a

personal interest in the fund, and that as between

herself and her children she was either a trustee

with a large discretion as to the application of it

or had a power in favour of the children, subject

to a life estate in herself. As Mr. Jarman says,

"the former construction would have been the more

consistent with the previous authorities, the latter

would not only have introduced a limitation of the

wife's interest not expressed in the will, but would

have left that diminished interest subject to the

charge of maintaining the children." Another case referred to by counsel was that of *Ho Chun Lau v. Ho Lai Shi*, reported in the *Daily Press* of 27th Sept. 1889, on appeal to the Full Court in Hongkong. There the material terms of the will were as follows:—"I give all my estate real and personal whatsoever to my beloved wife Ho Lai Shi to be administered by her as she may think best in behalf of herself, my sons (five in number, named), and my daughters (five in number, named)." One of the daughters claimed, as plaintiff, to be beneficially interested and therefore entitled to an administration decree. The decision was that "the plaintiff, having established, to the Court's satisfaction, that she has a beneficial interest, has a right at present to know what the property was and what has been done with it and the reasons which the defendant may have had for disposing of any part of it, but it will be time enough to say what share she, or any other beneficiary, is entitled to when we find out what there is to be distributed." The Acting Chief Justice continued in that case as follows:—"In *Raikes v. Ward*, 1 Hare 445, *Jubber v. Jubber*, 9 Sim. 593, *Crockett v. Crockett*, *Castobadie v. Castobadie*, 6 Hare 410, and *Godfrey v. Godfrey*, 2 N. R. 16, all cases similar to the present in this respect, that the mother, though meant to be invested with a certain discretion, was declared to be a trustee for herself and children, no specific declaration of the extent of the children's interest was made in the first instance, and I think it will be both just and convenient to follow this practice in the present case. The usual accounts to be taken with liberty to report special circumstances." Having reviewed these cases and returning to the case under consideration, the question arises—was there here any gift of an absolute beneficial interest to Kwok Kwai and Lo Shi? The property was handed over to them to control the same and collect rents; the precise words were "who shall control the same and collect rents." Then clause 2 said the management was to be in the hands of Kwok Kwai alone; while clause 3 was "Kwok Kwai shall also, every month, collect and receive rents and look after such matters," and the testator directed the interest in loans to be paid out of the rents and the surplus money to be applied for repayment of debts. The Acting Puisne Judge held "that the word 'control' did not imply any power of distribution or disposal," and was therefore of opinion that Kwok Kwai and Lo Shi did not take any absolute interest and that the testator never intended them to do so. In the view that no absolute beneficial interest was conferred I concur. The handing over by a testator of leasehold property to control and collect rents and pay debts is, by no means, synonymous with bequeathing it to the "absolute use" of the person to whom it is bequeathed, or bequeathing it to be at "the disposal of" such person, or bequeathing it "absolutely" to any one "with full power to dispose of the same," to quote the words of bequest in some of the cases cited. Looking at the whole will I do not believe the testator ever intended to confer the absolute beneficial interest of the property bequeathed, subject to payment of debts, upon the two women named. It may be he intended to constitute Kwok Kwai in some sense head of the family. Again, the "injunction" to the persons named in clause 2 of the will to abide by the orders of Kwok Kwai and on no account to distribute the testator's houses and property, the management of which was to be in the hands of Kwok Kwai alone, is certainly not tantamount to giving them any estate or creating any trust in their favour, while it throws some light on the meaning of the "control" he meant to be exercised. In vol. 1 of *Jarman on Wills*, p. 356, occurs the following passage:—"Conjecture is not permitted to supply what the testator has failed to indicate, for as the law has provided a definite successor in the absence of disposition it would be unjust to allow the right of this ascertained object to be superseded by the claim of anyone not pointed out by the testator with equal distinctness. The principle of construction here referred to has found expression in the familiar phrase that the heir is not to be disinherited unless by express words or necessary implications." The same principle applies to the claims of the next of kin. They, too, have their claims unless the testator has made some other clear disposition of his property. Now, Kwok Kwai died rather more than five months after the testator and less than three months after she obtained probate. The rents

she was directed to collect could not in the short time she lived have been nearly sufficient to pay the interest on loans of the testator remaining unpaid at his death and to repay his debts. I cannot see any intention in the will that the concubine Lo Shi was to take an absolute beneficial interest. Upon the whole, with every desire to give full effect to the testator's intentions so far as I can gather them from the will, it appears to me the only legitimate construction I can, in the circumstances, place upon the will is to hold that Kwok Kwai and Lo Shi were constituted trustees of the property to pay interest on loans and to pay the debts, and that, as regards the surplus of the property, they were trustees for the next of kin under the statute for the distribution of intestate estates. I am, therefore of opinion that the appeal should be dismissed with costs. It is true the costs in the Court below were allowed, quite rightly, out of the estate; for the parties might fairly ask for a judicial construction of the will which is perplexing in its language. The construction having been once given, it seems to me that those who are dissatisfied with it must appeal at their own risk as regards costs.

The Acting Puisne Judge (Mr. A. G. Wise)—I concur.

8th April.

IN APPEAL.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT.—HON. MR. W. M. GOODMAN (Acting Chief Justice).
AND MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH
(Acting Puisne Judge.)

LEE KING & CO. v. CARLOWITZ & CO.

This was an appeal by Messrs. Lee King & Co. against the decision of the late Acting Chief Justice, Mr. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. Hastings, from Mr. V. H. Deacon's office), appeared for the appellants, and Mr. Robinson (instructed by Mr. Gedge, from Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master's office) represented the respondents.

Mr. Francis said that this was, at the commencement, a suit by Lee King & Co. against Carlowitz & Co. for \$3,240.87 balance of freight due on a charter party dated 19th December, 1893. There was a counter-claim by Carlowitz & Co. for \$1,045.17 damages for breach of one of the stipulations in the charter party. There was a decree in the suit, by consent, for the amount of the original claim, \$3,240.87, with interest at 10 per cent. and costs of the suit; and the only amount in dispute was that of loss on cargo in consequence of the breach of the contract, and the total was put at \$1,571. The dispute was heard before the late acting Chief Justice, who referred the claim for damages to the Registrar. From the Registrar's decision Lee King and Co. appealed to Mr. Ackroyd and Mr. Wise, who heard the appeal, but Mr. Ackroyd was unable to deliver judgment before leaving the colony. The case therefore came before the Court now to be re-argued. The charter party was made on December 19th, 1893, and was in respect of the steamship *Iser*. Carlowitz and Co. chartered this steamer to proceed with all possible speed to Moji after completion of the voyage on which she was at the time engaged. She had the liberty to go to Moji via Kobe and Nagasaki, provided the detention on the way did not exceed three days, and she was to arrive at Moji not later than 20th January. The *Iser* was chartered to carry a cargo of coal, and Carlowitz and Co. had the option of cancelling the charter party if the vessel did not arrive within the stated time. The *Iser* arrived in Hongkong from her previous voyage at the end of December, and as the result of correspondence between the parties some modifications were made in the charter party. Mr. Andrew, who represented the plaintiffs, was anxious to get the vessel unloaded as speedily as possible and despatched from this port before the end of December. It suited the convenience of Carlowitz and Co. that the vessel should not arrive in Moji before 11th January, so that there was a modification to this extent, that instead of being bound to proceed with all possible speed to Moji after the termination of her voyage she was not required and in fact undertook not to get there before 11th January; but she was to do her best to get there on 15th January, and not later than the 20th January. Of course the option of cancelling the contract still remained. By an error of judgment

the *Iser* was sent to Shanghai, where she loaded coal for Canton. The fact that she was loading at Shanghai came to the knowledge of Carlowitz and Co. on 10th January, and they protested against Lee King and Co. so using the vessel, which passed through this port on 15th January on her way to Canton, carrying a cargo of coal which they had contracted to sell to a Chinese firm. The coal at Moji, and which the *Iser* should have brought down, was put in lighters and was ready on the 15th January. It was an absolute impossibility for the *Iser* to be in Moji on 20th January, but Carlowitz and Co. did not exercise their right of cancelling the contract, but chartered another steamer, the *Marie*, to go to Moji and bring down the cargo of coal lying there.

The Acting Chief Justice—Why didn't they throw up the charter?

Mr. Francis said there were no reasons given. He presumed that it was simply a shift in the turn of the vessels, as there was a constant trade in coal. The *Marie* went to Moji, and loaded the particular cargo of coal, and arrived here on 2nd February. But the firm for whom the coal was brought declined to take delivery of it, as the contract time had elapsed, and the market price of that particular coal had gone down. The *Iser* left here again on 23rd January, went to Moji, obtained another cargo of coal, and got back on 7th February. If she had carried out her contract she could have been here with the first cargo of coal from Moji some time in January. Mr. Francis submitted that the *Iser*, in consequence of the modifications which were made, was not bound to proceed with all possible speed; she was only bound to get to Moji on a particular day. He admitted that in going to Shanghai there was a breach of the agreement, and the question was what damages Carlowitz and Co. were entitled to in consequence of the breach. He also admitted that they were entitled to interest at the rate of 7 per cent. on money they had spent in the purchase of the coal which was lying idle and unproductive for a certain number of days longer than it ought to have been, and to costs in keeping the coal on board the lighters from the day on which the *Iser* ought to have been at Moji to the day when the coal was shipped on board the *Marie*, and to certain incidental expenses incurred in getting instructions, etc. If their Lordships should be against him and refer the matter to the Registrar, he asked their Lordships to state specifically which of the two cargoes of coal ought to be considered. His contention was that for the loss on either of these cargoes the plaintiffs were not responsible, because there was no connection between the stipulation in the contract and the breach of the contract and the particular consequences. He admitted they were liable for immediate consequences, but not for consequences which were remote. It was not specified in the contract what time the plaintiffs had to be here; only the time she was to be at Moji was specified, the object of that being to ship the coal from the lighters.

Mr. Robinson addressed the Court at considerable length on behalf of the respondents, and quoted many cases in support of his contentions. Judgment was reserved.

STOPPAGE OF NIGHT TRAFFIC ON THE CANTON RIVER.

In consequence of the laying down of additional mines and torpedoes in the Canton river, as a precaution against a Japanese attack, night traffic on the river has been suspended. The official notification is dated the 8th inst.

England is warned by the Tokyo *Mainichi* that unless she evinces more sympathy for Japan she will be surpassed by France as the more influential Power in the Orient. Superior diplomacy, says the writer, gained England the advantage at the Restoration, but the balance is now rapidly turning. The Japanese nation is very ready to welcome France as their best friend at this time; and England should seek to realise the changes that are transpiring. The Orient of the future, it concludes, will be quite different from the Orient of the past.

THE "HYMN OF PRAISE" AT THE CITY HALL.

The performance of Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise" at the Theatre Royal on Thursday night afforded lovers of music a treat such as is rarely enjoyed in Hongkong, and great praise is due to those who have worked so hard in getting together such an efficient chorus and orchestra. The programme was as follows:—

Symphony .. Maestoso con Moto—Allegro—Allegretto agitato—Adagio religioso.
Chorus "All Men, all things."
Solo and Chorus "Praise thou the Lord."
Recitative and Air "Sing ye praise."
Chorus "All ye that cried unto the Lord."
Duet and Chorus "I waited for the Lord."
Air "The sorrows of Death."
Chorus "The night is departing."
Choral "Let all men praise the Lord."
Duet "My song shall be alway Thy mercy."
Chorus "Ye nations, offer to the Lord."

The various movements of the opening symphony were executed with great precision, and throughout the oratorio the accompaniment left nothing to be desired. The principal soloist was Mr. D. K. Sliman, who as usual gave a most creditable rendering of the numbers allotted to him, especially of "The Sorrows of Death," but the recitative and air "Sing ye Praise" did not seem to suit his voice quite so well. The duet for two sopranos, "I waited for the Lord," was most sweetly sung by Mrs. Mitchell and Miss Lammert, and the duet for soprano and tenor, "My song shall be alway Thy mercy" was excellently rendered by Mrs. Craddock and Mr. Sliman. Mrs. J. D. Humphreys took the solo in the second number, "Praise thou the Lord." The choruses were well sustained throughout and all the lights and shades distinctly marked. The performance as a whole reflected great credit on the conductor, Mr. G. P. Lammert, and all who took part in it, both vocalists and instrumentalists, the interpretation of the great master's work exhibiting intelligence and executive ability.

The audience was not so large as the merits of the performance deserved, but no doubt there will be a full house to-morrow night, when the oratorio will be preceded by a miscellaneous programme.

The performers were as follows, a few of the chorus, however, being absent:—

Conductor.—Mr. Geo. P. Lammert.
Sopranos.—Miss Murray Bain, Mrs. Dyer Ball, Mrs. Braidwood, Miss Clement, Mrs. Craddock, Mrs. David, Mrs. Dalrymple, Miss Goggin, Mrs. J. D. Humphreys, Miss O. Hunt, Mrs. Haskell, Mrs. Hagen, Miss Lammert, Mrs. Leigh, Miss Mast, Mrs. Mitchell, Miss Mackintosh, Mrs. Seth, Mrs. Woodcock.

Altos.—Mrs. Brewitt, Mrs. Boxshall, Mrs. G. C. Cox, Mrs. F. Dodwell, Mrs. Goodman, Mrs. Grimble, Miss Hazland, Mrs. Leach, Mrs. Mast, Mrs. Master, Mrs. McBean, Mrs. Mudie, Mrs. Sachse, Mrs. Tooker.

Tenors.—Mr. P. Brewitt, Mr. R. P. Dipple, Mr. M. Danenberg, Mr. C. Lammert, Mr. R. F. Lammert, Mr. E. F. Mackay, Mr. E. W. Maitland, Mr. J. C. Matheson, R.E., Mr. E. A. Measor, Mr. F. D. Maclean, Mr. W. Robinson, Mr. C. E. Spriggs, Mr. D. K. Sliman, Mr. W. M. Wood.

Basses.—Mr. W. G. Allen, Mr. W. Armstrong, Mr. B. Benjamin, Mr. H. E. Boxshall, Mr. G. Ballesh, Mr. E. R. Burdon, Mr. H. W. Bird, Mr. J. R. Crook, Mr. W. E. Crow, Mr. D. W. Craddock, Mr. J. Goosmann, Mr. G. C. Hayward, Mr. J. Hastings, Mr. R. Isbell, Mr. C. W. Longuet, Capt. A. W. Miller, R.N., Mr. A. Sharp, Mr. E. C. Shepherd, Mr. W. Tarn.

ORCHESTRA.

1st Violin.—Miss Humphreys, Mr. M. Alsberg, Mr. H. B. Cox, R.N., Mr. J. G. Schroeter.
2nd Violin.—Mr. E. J. Lopes, Sergt. Jaffrey.
Pte. Haines, Pte. Peachey.
Viola.—Pte. Borington.

Violoncello.—Mrs. Matheson, Mr. H. Ehmer, Corpl. Judd.

Bass.—Mr. W. T. Pollard, Pte. Plumb, Pte. Taylor.

Flute.—Q. M. Sergt. C. Gornell, Pte. Sainty.

Oboe.—Mr. J. Abrahart, Pte. Kedge.

Clarinet.—Mr. A. Cumming, Pte. Hall.

Cornet.—Sergt. Burton, L.-Corpl. Sherman.

Euphonium.—Lce.-Corpl. Fancey.

Trombone.—Lce.-Corpl. George, Lce.-Corpl. Edmonds.

Timpani.—Lce.-Corpl. Gilbert.

Piano.—Miss Hitching.

The performance of Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise" was repeated at the Theatre Royal on Saturday evening, preceded by a short miscellaneous programme. There was, as anticipated, a very full house, and the inadequacy of the Theatre for performances of this description was strikingly evident. It is to be hoped that the objections to the use of the lecture hall of the Queen's College for concerts may ere long be removed so that performances like that of Saturday evening may be given under conditions which will conduce to the greater comfort of both performers and audience. The lecture hall has cost the colony a large sum of money and if it be correct that it is used for only a fortnight in the year it seems a pity that the colony cannot be allowed to get some return for the money by enjoying the use of the hall for public entertainments and other functions. Amongst those present at the Theatre on Saturday evening were His Excellency the Governor (who came in after the cricket dinner to the Hon. A. J. Leach), Vice-Admiral Fremantle, and Lieut.-General and Mrs. Barker.

The programme opened with the song "Call me back" by Mr. C. Lammert. Mr. Lammert's voice seemed to lack something of its usual fine quality, but he gave a tasteful and careful rendering of the song. The next item on the programme was a song by Mrs. Dalrymple, but that lady was unfortunately unable to attend owing to indisposition. Mr. M. Alsberg gave a violin solo "Elegia" (Achille del Nero). Mr. Alsberg is a thorough master of his instrument and his playing was much appreciated. Mrs. Marten, who possesses a well-trained soprano voice of excellent quality, then sang two songs "Im Sommer" (R. Franz) and "Sehnsucht" (A. Rubinstein), and was very warmly encored, responding with another German song. All who had the pleasure of hearing Mrs. Marten on Saturday night will hope to have the opportunity of enjoying the same pleasure again on many future occasions. The first part of the programme was brought to a conclusion by Mr. C. H. Grace's song "Night Watch." When Mr. Grace's name appears on a programme the audience always looks for something good, but on Saturday he was not in his usual form and the result was rather disappointing. Mr. G. Lammert played the accompaniments for Mr. C. Lammert's and Mr. Grace's songs and Mr. Alsberg's violin solo, and Mr. Schwenke for Mrs. Marten's songs.

The "Hymn of Praise" was as successful as on the previous occasion; some even thought that it went if anything better. A little amusement was caused by the collapse of the bridge of one of the bass fiddles with a report like that of a pistol, and the loss of the instrument for the rest of the evening was a slight drawback, especially in the fortissimo passages of the chorus, but as there were two other basses it was not very noticeable. On Thursday evening several of the members of the chorus were absent, but on Saturday nearly all the places were filled. Mrs. J. D. Humphreys, however, was absent, and her place in the solo and chorus "Praise thou the Lord" was taken by Miss Lammert, whose sweet voice was heard to much advantage. One of the charms of Miss Lammert's singing is that all her notes are taken and sustained without any apparent strain or effort. Mr. Sliman, who again took the two tenor solos, although he gave a very fine rendering of them on Thursday did still better on Saturday, when the fine musical qualities of his voice were heard to perfection. The duet by Mrs. Mitchell and Miss Lammert "I waited for the Lord" was again a great success, notwithstanding a little confusion in one passage. The duet by Mrs. Craddock and Mr. Sliman, "My song shall be alway Thy mercy," was rendered in the same effective and finished manner as on the previous occasion, the two voices blending perfectly and Mrs. Craddock's pure soprano notes being heard to great advantage.

The committee are to be warmly congratulated on the success of their efforts to revive classical music in Hongkong and it is to be hoped we may now see a resuscitation of the Choral Society and look forward to a few performances such as those of Thursday and Saturday last and the

"Revenge" concert every season. The Committee was composed of Messrs. C. H. Grace, G. P. Lammert, E. W. Maitland, E. A. Measor, Captain A. W. Miller, R.N., Messrs. J. Orange, D. K. Sliman, and W. M. Wood. Mr. Measor, we believe, was responsible for the largest share of the work of organisation and to him special thanks are due.

THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS AND SHIPBUILDERS OF HONGKONG.

PRESENTATION TO THE PRESIDENT.

On Saturday evening the members of the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders of Hongkong held a special meeting, which was followed by a smoking concert, for the purpose of presenting an address to the President, Mr. D. Gillies. There was an exceptionally large attendance.

Mr. E. J. MAIN said it was a very pleasant duty which the members were called upon to perform that night. (Applause). The duty was the presentation of an address to their worthy President—(applause)—in order to show their high appreciation of him. He was about to leave the colony to go home for a well earned holiday. (Applause). Everyone wished him a prosperous voyage and a happy holiday, and it was also hoped that he would return invigorated in health. They could not allow their President to leave the colony without showing some mark of appreciation for the services he had rendered to the Institution—(applause)—and the large attendance of members to wish him "God speed" showed that they had a high appreciation of those services. (Applause). Whilst at home Mr. Gillies would no doubt meet many gentlemen who were presidents or vice-presidents of Institutions of this kind, and the members had no doubt that he would do all in his power to make the Institutions at home aware that there is such an Institution in Hongkong as the Institution of Marine Engineers and Shipbuilders. (Applause).

The address, which was in the form of a handsome white satin scroll, was printed in blue and gold, and was exceedingly well got up. It read as follows:—

"To D. GILLIES, Esq.
President of the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders of Hongkong.

"Being about to take your departure from the colony on a well earned holiday, we—on behalf of the members of this institution—desire to express our great appreciation for the able and generous manner in which you have acted as President since the inauguration of the Institution.

"The valuable advice and generous gifts you have bestowed from time to time will ever be remembered by us with the sincerest gratitude.

"Your handsome donation toward the formation of the library and your presentation of a gold medal to be awarded to the author of the best of a series of papers to be read and submitted for discussion at our meetings are particularly regarded by us as a sincere token of the great interest you take in the welfare of the Institution. Through your generosity the library is now replete with valuable works on engineering and kindred subjects, and is much appreciated by all; whilst the friendly rivalry created by your Gold Medal has been the source of much pleasure and profit, both to those who read papers and to those who listened and took part in the interchange of ideas and experiences at the discussions which the readings evoked.

"We regret that the state of your health is partly the cause of your departure from the colony, and hope the change and rest during your holiday will enable you to return amongst us with that health and vigour which you have enjoyed in the past.

Managing Committee:—

E. J. MAIN, Chairman	A. MCINTYRE
W. RAMSAY	W. G. WINTERBURN
J. KIRKWOOD	J. B. MUDIE
W. K. WYLIE	J. B. CHRISTIE
D. MACDONALD	J. R. WILSON
J. W. KEW	J. B. COUSINS, Hon. Treas.
A. BAIN	A. JOHNSTONE, Hon. Sec.

"Hongkong, 6th April, 1895."

Mr. GILLIES said—Gentlemen, I thank you not less for your words of esteem and confidence than for this address which you have so kindly presented to me as your President, and I accept the address with a full appreciation of the kind

motives you had in making the presentation, and not that I feel myself worthy of so much consideration at your hands. I have striven to do my duty to the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders, but I have with much regret to acknowledge that I have not been with you at your meetings so frequently as I ought, having had so many other calls on my time; still, although I have been absent from some of your meetings I have been present at others, and I assure you that I not only received much valuable and interesting information from many of the papers that were read, but I also passed some very pleasant and agreeable evenings amongst you. (Applause.) I am proud indeed to have enjoyed the honour of being the President of this useful and well managed Institute and I sincerely trust that it will continue to flourish and prosper in its sphere of usefulness. (Applause.) Permit me now to say a few words on a subject which may not be altogether out of place at a gathering such as I now see before me. It takes every grade of society to make the complete whole; one class is just as necessary as the other in carrying forward enterprises whether great or small, and how plainly do we see this manifested in our profession. Take the construction of a modern marine steam engine. A certain grade of mind is essential to work out the mathematical formula for the necessary strength and proportions of its various parts, and to prepare the specifications and plans necessary for the guidance of the workman. Another class will act as superintendents and foremen to see that the several parts are carefully machined and accurately fitted together, while still another grade will supply the physical force and energy of the skilled workmen; thus in associated labour each grade of mind does its appropriate work. We could not dispense with either class, and all merit due consideration. Each class being thus dependent one upon the other all should labour in harmony together and the workman should at all times zealously guard his employer's interest, be regular in attendance, and most attentive to the duties entrusted to him. He should make his work a study; he should give it thought, as thereby he renders his services so much more valuable, and his compensation in the end will be so much better. Probably if trustworthy and energetic he may be advanced to a higher position in the service or may be recommended for promotion in some other field. It is certain, at any rate, if he proves himself a competent assistant, he is the more likely in time himself to become the manager of others. Employers through kindness and encouragement may do much towards making the subordinate worthy and competent, and on the other hand the employed should thoroughly understand the duty which he is expected to perform, and then he should make up his mind to execute it to the letter; and when once there is a definite understanding on his part as to what is explicitly required, I know from a long experience that the instructions given will be faithfully carried out, and that a word of encouragement is seldom if ever lost on those who have to bear the heat and burden of the day. With regard to the remark made by Mr. Main that on my return home I would in all probability be thrown into contact with the presidents of similar societies in England and Scotland, I think that is more than likely, and I shall certainly not forget to carry out his suggestion and speak a good word for this Institution to those that I may meet at home. (Applause.) I know it will be of interest to the engineers at home to know that an Institute of this kind has been established in Hongkong and that it has made such eminent progress. I think it must be a source of great satisfaction to everyone connected with this Institute to see the progress you have made, the large number of very respectable members you have upon your roll, and the flourishing condition in which you find your finances. (Applause.) I am sure that while I am in England or Scotland, if not with you in the body—making use of an old metaphor—I will be with you in the spirit. (Applause.) And I trust you will continue to have those papers brought forward as frequently as you have had in the past, and perhaps the subjects will be equally interesting as those we have already had the pleasure of listening to. I do not know if the labours of the the Committee have yet come to a conclusion, but I hope I will soon have the pleasure of knowing the name of the successful writer, or successful student,

I might say. Whichever of them receives the decision, I am sure by his diligence and intelligence he has shown himself worthy of the medal. (Applause.) I now thank you, gentlemen, most kindly for the very good wishes you have expressed through Mr. Main. I hope I shall enjoy my trip home, and that it will benefit my health to the extent you all wish. (Applause.)

The smoking concert, which followed the presentation, was very enjoyable, and there was not a dull moment during the whole of the evening. The programme was a most attractive one, and encores were frequently demanded. Mr. G. G. Brady and Mr. C. T. Robinson supplied the comic element, and, as usual, they succeeded in evoking roars of laughter. Both dressed in character and each song was received with well merited applause. Mr. Brady also recited "The Midnight Charge" in very fine style, and Mr. Robinson, in addition to his comic songs, sang "The Bugler" with considerable ability. The remaining artists who contributed to the conviviality of the evening were Messrs. G. F. Krall, W. Robinson, Jas. R. Mudie, J. Kirkpatrick, H. B. Bridger, J. Waddell, J. B. Crew, and Isbell.

The proceedings were brought to a close by a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. C. T. Robinson, who is about to leave the colony, and to whose efforts the excellence of the concert was due.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS' RIFLE MEETING.

The following are the results of the Volunteer Rifle Meeting held on Saturday, the 23rd, and Saturday, the 30th March:—

HANDICAP, 200 yards (prize by Lieut. Adamson); 7 rounds.

	Score.	Pts.	Total.
Corporal Firth	29	4	33
Gunner Stewart	32	0	32
Gunner Toppin	25	7	32
Gunner Rutter	27	4	31
Gunner Crombie	25	6	31
Sergeant Lowrie	30	0	30

HANDICAP, 400 yards (prize by Lieut. Chapman); 7 rounds.

	Score.	Pts.	Total.
Gunner Henderson	32	3	35
Gunner Crombie	27	6	33
Gunner T. W. Lammert	31	1	32
Sergeant Hayward	31	0	31
Gunner Stewart	31	0	31
Gunner Shepherd	31	0	31

HANDICAP, 500 yards (prize by Lieutenant Machell); 7 rounds.

	Score.	Pts.	Total.
Sergeant Brown	29	3	32
Gunner Deas	26	6	32
Gunner Henderson	25	7	32
Gunner Shepherd	31	0	31
Gunner Crombie	25	6	31
Sergeant Hayward	30	0	30

AGGREGATE HANDICAP; 200, 400, and 500 yards (1st prize by Captain McCallum, 2nd prize by Mr. D. R. Sassoon, 3rd prize from prize fund); 7 rounds at each range.

	Score.	Pts.	Total.
Gunner Henderson	77	20	97
Gunner Crombie	77	18	95
Gunner Shepherd	91	0	91
B. S. M. Duncan	82	6	88
Sergeant Lowrie	83	4	87
Gunner T. W. Lammert	83	3	86

Gunner Shepherd having resigned this event, the third prize is carried off by the fourth man. AGGREGATE NET SCORE; Championship Cup, and 2nd prize presented by Mr. D. Gillies, 7 rounds at 200, 400, and 500 yards; open to Members of the Field Battery only.

	200.	400.	500.	Total.
Gunner Stewart	32	31	22	85
Sergeant Hayward	23	31	30	84
Sergeant Lowrie	30	23	25	83
B. S. M. Duncan	27	29	26	82
Gunner Henderson	23	32	25	80
Corporal R. F. Lammert	22	28	27	77

AGGREGATE NET SCORE—(Championship Cup, presented by Mr. T. Jackson; 2nd prize by Mr. A. Woolley); 7 rounds at 200, 400, and 500 yards; open to members of the Maxim Gun Company only.

	200.	400.	500.	Total.
Gunner E. C. Shepherd	29	31	31	91
Gunner T. W. Lammert	27	31	25	83
Gunner Crombie	25	27	25	77
Gunner G. P. Lammert	25	22	27	74
Corporal Firth	29	23	21	73
Gunner Landale	23	20	24	67

HANDICAP 200, 400, 500 yards (prize presented by members of the Corps); open to Officers only.

	200.	400.	500.	Pts.	Total.
Captain McCallum	27	26	19	21	93
Captain Murray	21	24	16	6	67

FOR SEVEN VOLLEERS, Kneeling, at 300 yards (prize from prize fund)

	Total.
Sergeant Maitland's sub-division	39
Sergeant Lowrie's	37
Sergeant Hayward's	28
Sergeant Coyle's	23
Sergeant Sanders' (2 men short)	20

TOTAL NET SCORE, 7 rounds at 200 yards (three prizes presented by the Ladies of the Community, per Miss Barker)

	Total.
Gunner Shepherd	26
Sergeant Lowrie	25
Sergeant Sanders	22
Gunner Hopkins	22
Gunner Wilkinson	22
Corporal Thompson	21

TOTAL NET SCORE—7 rounds at 300 yards; open to Members nominated by a Lady. (Twelve prizes presented by Sergeants Field Battery, Sergeants Maxim Gun Co., Capt. Jackson, Messrs. J. D. Humphreys, R. Cooke, Wang Hing, R. Shewan, H. U. Jeffries, L. Martel, Kruse & Co, Kelly & Walsh, and Battery Sergeant-Major.)

Nominator.	Nominee.	Score.
Miss Plummer	Gunner Smyth	27
Mrs. Lowrie	Sergeant Lowrie	27
Mrs. G. P. Lammert	Gr. G. P. Lammert	26
Mrs. Stewart	Gunner Stewart	26
Miss Rutter	Gunner Rutter	25
Miss Shepherd	Gunner Shepherd	22
Miss Brost	Gunner White	22
Miss Lammert	Corpl. R. F. Lammert	23
Miss Bevan	Gunner Hand	21
Miss Ross	Gunner Wilkinson	21
Miss Barker	Capt. Murray	21
Mrs. G. B. Lammert	Gr. T. W. Lammert	20

TOTAL BULL in all events (prize by Captain Murray)

	Score.
Gunner Shepherd	33
Gunner Stewart	21
Gunner G. P. Lammert	21
Sergeant Lowrie	19
B. S. M. Duncan	17
Gunner T. W. Lammert	17

Gunner Shepherd having resigned this event, the tie will be shot off for the prize.

CONSOLATION EVENT Prize presented by Captain E. Burnie. (Not yet finished.)

AGGREGATE NET SCORE at 200, 400, and 500 yards open to Drill Instructors only.

	200.	400.	500.	Total.
Sergeant-Major Spencer	18	30	22	70
Master Gunner Duggan	17	27	23	67
Corporal Round	16	24	13	53

A Challenge between the Field Battery and Maxim Gun Co. Conditions, 10 men a side and the eight highest scores to count. Challenge Cup presented by H.E. Lieut.-Gen Barker.

Won by the Field Battery. Teams—

FIELD BATTERY.	MAXIM GUN CO.	
B. S. M. Duncan	Capt. Murray	79
Sergt. Hayward	Sergt. Maitland	63
Sergt. Brown	Corporal Firth	69
Sergt. Lowrie	Corporal Thompson	83
Corp. Soonderam	Gunner Smyth	77
Gunner Stewart	Gunner Shepherd	89
Gunner Rutter	Gunner G. Lammert	93
Gunner White	Gunner T. Lammert	77

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Won by 23 points.

H.K.V.C. CHAMPIONSHIP CUP, presented by Hon. J. J. Keswick. To be won two years in succession before becoming the property of the holder.

	300.	400.	500.	Total.
Gunner G. P. Lammert	31	28	34	93
Sergeant Lowrie	27	33	31	91
Gunner Shepherd	28	30	31	89
Gunner Stewart	31	32	25	88
Sergeant Hayward	31	27	30	88
Gunner White	29	26	29	84

ENCOURAGEMENT Cup, for 2nd and 3rd class Shots. (Handicap) Prize presented by the Hon. E. R. Belilios.

	200.	400.	500.	Total.
Gunner Crombie	31	33	31	95

NET SCORE—150 yards; 7 rounds; for Signallers and Trumpeters. Prize presented by Mr. G. C. Cox.

	Score.
Signaller C. Hance	23
Signaller H. B. Skertchley	20
Trumpeter Sanders	19
Signaller E. Sayer	17
Signaller J. Hance	14

We (*Hyogo News*) understand that the Revs. M. L. Gordon, of Kyoto, and A. D. Hall, of Osaka, have left Hiroshima for the occupied districts of China, they having received special permission to make the trip as representatives of the Christians of Japan to enquire after the welfare of the troops.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS

ANNUAL INSPECTION.

On Wednesday afternoon Lieutenant-General Digby Barker conducted the annual inspection of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps on the Parade Ground. Major Pemberton, of the Rifle Brigade, commanded the Volunteers, Captain Gordon, Adjutant, Royal Artillery, commanded No. 1 Field Battery, and Captain Murray, A.D.C., commanded the Maxim Gun Corps. The General's staff consisted of Colonel O'Gorman, Major Botfield, and Captain Thomas, and Colonel Barrow, of the Hongkong Regiment, was also present. Considerable interest was attached to the proceedings, inasmuch as this was the last time Lieutenant-General Barker will make an official inspection before his return home. We understand he leaves the colony in the *Empress of China* on the 16th inst. The Volunteers were put through a stiff hour's drill, and, as the General remarked, it reflected considerable credit upon them. They first of all marched past in line, then performed a variety of brigade movements, and also manual exercises, and the work was throughout watched with keen interest by hundreds of spectators. At the conclusion of the drill,

Lieutenant-General BARKER said—Major Pemberton and members of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps, I am very pleased to see the progress which you have made in efficiency and appearance generally. It is only the second annual inspection you have had since the re-organisation of the old corps and the addition of Maxim Gun Company, and you have done yourselves great credit. I consider you have turned out very fairly smart, and the drill has been very fairly done. There were a few little shortcomings, which, no doubt, with more practice, will soon be got rid of; but on the whole I consider the drill very creditable indeed. This will probably be the last time I shall see you on parade, and I wish to express my great thanks to all ranks for the way in which, by first having joined this corps and then giving their attendance and their time, they have helped on the good cause of volunteering. I was told when I took a great interest in re-organising this corps that there was no use in ever thinking that the number of members would reach a hundred and I am very glad to hear that that number has been exceeded, and hope it will remain so all along. I only ask you to go on with this good service and persuade all those you can to follow your good example.

An adjournment was then made to the Volunteer Parade Ground, where the General distributed the prizes to winners, whose names were published yesterday, in the annual carbine competition. After the distribution,

Lieutenant-General BARKER said—Members of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps, it gives me very great pleasure to distribute these prizes. They represent, I am sure, the results of very careful and continuous work at the ranges—a work which is one of the important objects aimed at by Volunteers. I have already, a few minutes ago, expressed my satisfaction with what I saw on parade of your efficiency in field movements, and I am very glad to have the opportunity of saying a few more words to you. I have always taken a very great interest in the Volunteers, partly because I think it is a very good school of exercise for any man in this colony, and also because I consider it a very important factor in the defence of this fortress. I think you have not yet attained quite the number that I should like to see reached, but still I am very satisfied to feel that you have attained, at all events, a position of permanence and that you are likely to increase in numbers. You are well assured that the right hand of good fellowship is held out to you by the regular forces. You have had the benefit and the good advice and the command of two most able and willing officers; first Colonel Jerrard, and now Major Pemberton. The Maxim Gun Company has had the advantage of winning the able assistance of Captain Murray, and the Field Battery is still being commanded by that keen soldier Captain McCallum. A feeling of good natured rivalry has already sprung up between the members of the branches of the Corps as well as between those branches and other bodies, and I think it may fairly be said that you have now obtained a firm footing. As I said on parade, you have done very well, and I only hope that you

will not only continue to hold this record yourselves, but that your excellent example will be followed by others. When I go away from the colony I shall still take an interest in this Volunteer Corps, and I hope as there are four Maxim guns still lying idle that men will be coming forward to man them, and challenge you for the prizes, so that there may be established a good feeling of rivalry. I hope that before long that will be the case, and that the force will reach its maximum number. I now wish you good-bye.

The Corps then gave three hearty cheers for Lieutenant-General Barker, Mrs. Barker, and Miss Barker.

CRICKET DINNER TO THE HON. A. J. LEACH.

On Saturday evening the committee of the Cricket Club, together with a few of those members of the Club whose exploits in the cricket field in the present and in the past entitle them to be described in this sense as prominent members of the Club, entertained their President, Mr. A. J. Leach, at a farewell dinner in the Pavilion. A cricket ground does not commend itself very strongly at first sight as a particularly suitable place upon which to serve a dinner, and the meal inevitably partook to some extent of the nature of a picnic in consequence; but it was considered that it was in a certain degree appropriate that farewells should be spoken on a spot which has been the scene of so many struggles in which Mr. Leach has taken a leading part, which must recall to him a thousand memories, some of them inevitably sad, but none, we venture to say, that are painful or disagreeable; and which is associated in his mind, as he said, with so many of his happiest hours in the colony. Members of the Club are not unnaturally chiefly interested in their President's qualifications as a comrade and as a cricketer, but His Excellency the Governor, who did the Cricket Club the honour of being present upon the occasion, would not allow the occasion to pass without testifying also to his professional worth and ability; and in a speech which came with particularly good grace from one who could speak as an old cricketer as well as an official chief he expressed the hope, in happily chosen words, that Mr. Leach has been lent, not given, to Singapore; and that the next time the Pavilion is illuminated at night it may be to welcome him back to Hongkong in good health, in a still more responsible position, and, if possible, with a more extensive wardrobe.

The chair was taken by Mr. Travers, and, the Queen having been duly honoured, the toast of the evening was proposed by him in a few straightforward and well chosen words, which were characterized by the eloquence of sincerity and good feeling, and which appealed to his hearers far more strongly than any ponderous flights into the realms of oratory could have possibly done; as evidenced by the ringing cheers with which his concluding remarks were received, cheers which were repeated again and again when Mr. Leach rose to reply and when he sat down. The toasts of His Excellency the Governor, proposed by Mr. Leach, and of the Cricket Club, proposed by Mr. Stewart Lockhart in a neat little speech, concluded the speechifying and the meeting adjourned to the ladies' tent for a little music.

There is poor comfort in the reflection that our loss is Singapore's gain, but there is some consolation in the reflection that Mr. Leach will be in a certain sense still within hail; and it is not impossible that we may see him again "wielding the willow" on the Hongkong Cricket Ground, possibly, alas! as an enemy, but not impossibly as one of ourselves. In the meantime he will be remembered in Hongkong by all who know him as one who has in a pre-eminent degree possessed the qualities, dear above all others to Englishmen, of being a good comrade, a good sportsman, and a gentleman.

Colonel Cockerill's engagement as New York *Herald* correspondent in Japan is not, the *Hyogo News* says, to terminate with the war. Mr. Gordon Bennett is said to anticipate an early re-opening of the fight for constitutional privileges in that country, and to have determined, on that supposition, to be specially represented there for some years to come.

OPENING OF THE KOWLOON INSTITUTE.

On the afternoon of the 2nd inst. His Excellency the Governor, Sir William Robinson, opened the Kowloon Institute for Soldiers and Seamen. There was a very large attendance of ladies and gentlemen. The proceedings opened with a hymn and prayer, and then

The Rev. G. GOLDSMITH, Seamen's Chaplain, explained that in 1891 he was asked by a friend to erect a place at Kowloon as a recreation room, institute, and refreshment room, in connection with St. Peter's Seamen's Church. In September of that year the Government granted a squatter's licence, and they accordingly "squatted" in the mat shed adjoining the Institute. It was due to Lieut.-General Barker, who was then acting as Governor, that the mat shed was erected, and it had proved a great success. A further advance was made, the result being that they had a lease granted by the Government from 1st January, 1893, for 73 years at a nominal rent, and the present building was erected. The Governor had been very kind to them so far, and he was kinder still to come and open the Institute. (Applause).

His EXCELLENCY—Ladies and gentlemen, a few weeks ago I received an invitation from the Rev. Mr. Goldsmith to perform the ceremony of opening the Kowloon Institute, and need not say I accepted that invitation with a great deal of pleasure. My appearance upon this platform to-night is, I think, a substantial assurance that I have come here willingly to perform that ceremony, and to perform the duty that has fallen upon my shoulders, and which I gracefully accept. In the remarks which Mr. Goldsmith made you will have gathered that this institution, like many others, has sprung from a small beginning, and from the mat shed which you can see from the window it has expanded into this large and commodious building, which is sufficient to accommodate a very large number of people, and which is evidently suitable for the requirements for which it is intended. In his remarks, with that humility that characterises him, Mr. Goldsmith said very little about his own exertions (applause)—exertions which have been actuated by that great principle of love, which is the greatest thing in the world. I am sure I am within the mark when I say that had it not been for Mr. Goldsmith this institution would probably not have been commenced and certainly never completed. (Applause). I am sure that one of his pleasantest recollections, when, in the course of time he retires from his labours here and goes to the old country, will be the opening of this institution. I very much regret, feeling so strongly as I do upon the subject, that I have not been asked to open the Goldsmith Institute instead of the Kowloon Institute in connection with St. Peter's Seamen's Church. There is only one little cloud hanging over this building, and that is a slight debt of \$1,200, which I hope will soon be dispersed. The plate is going to be handed round this evening at the close of the proceedings and I ask you not to put your money on the plate only, but to take home one of these cards and fill it up for \$5 or \$15, and as much more as you can spare. A wise and liberal legislature has placed at my disposal a sum of money for the Benevolent Fund, and it affords me great pleasure to hand Mr. Goldsmith a cheque for \$100, and if he will accept a small cheque on behalf of myself I shall be glad. (Loud applause). Now, ladies and gentlemen, allow me to make a few remarks upon institutions generally and this one in particular. Institutions or clubs for seamen and soldiers based on the principle of providing them with amusement and instruction apart from the influence of intoxicating drinks are deserving of the sympathy and support of the wealthier classes. These institutions have arisen out of a combination of circumstances and feelings which mark the times in which we live, and will continue to mark them in the future. They represent the existence of wants which it is not easy to supply adequately from any other quarter, and Mr. Goldsmith and the members of this Institute have acted very wisely in applying a specific remedy to a specific want which has heretofore been felt in Kowloon. It may be argued that those classes whose interests these institutions will promote have done very well in former days without such aid, and that

they could do very well without it now. To such carping critics I would say, not only that it is absolutely necessary to improve the condition of those classes, but that it is impossible to prevent such improvement. There is a law controlling our physical and moral being which forbids us to believe in the fixedness of any condition of life. If men do not advance, they go back. If they do not grow better, they inevitably grow worse. This is a law which reigns throughout universal nature. Every one must admit that the present age is distinguished above all others by the qualities to which I have referred, viz., the desire and power to advance. To resist such progress is impossible. If it were possible it would not be lawful. Such resistance would amount to wilful rejection of benefits scattered in our path by an all-wise Providence. Let me say something more. As to the necessity for these Institutions so as to enable men to keep abreast of the times, look at the valuable discoveries which have been made through the vast and varied fields of natural science. Look to the new powers which have been added to the telescope and the microscope. Look to the telegraph darting its messages with lightning speed through thousands of miles of space. Consider the mighty agency of steam, the telephone, and endeavour to comprehend the still undeveloped might and uses of electricity. Is there any human being who can say that his or her position in the world is not affected by these marvels? Many years ago Sir Robert Peel said of the steam engine and railroad when they were in their infancy—"They are speeding the intercourse between mind and mind. They are creating new demands for knowledge. They are fertilising the intellectual as well as the material waste. They are removing the impediments which obscurity or remoteness or poverty may have opposed to the energy of real merit." Those, ladies and gentlemen, were words of soberness and truth. If they applied to the state of things existing forty years ago, how much more do they apply now owing to the gigantic strides of all knowledge in the meantime? What, then is the duty of all wise men and women who find themselves placed in the midst of changes so numerous and vast? It clearly is to assist all classes to get as much benefit as possible from all these good things which are thus placed within their reach. We cannot stand still; we cannot stop the progress of the current; we must turn the stream, which is hurrying people forward, into the best, the safest, and the most profitable direction. Well, ladies and gentlemen, by supporting this Institution, by extending to it our friendly aid and sympathy, we can assist in this great and progressive work. The object of this Institution and of kindred institutions is not to raise men out of the condition of life in which God has placed them, but to raise that condition itself. The Kowloon Institution is, as Mr. Goldsmith has stated, for the purpose of providing innocent recreation, amusement, and instruction to two classes of persons—soldiers and sailors—two classes upon whom we rely and for whom we have the greatest possible respect, and to whom we are much indebted. To soldiers we look for protection in time of peace and war, and to sailors we look for guidance over the mighty deep in times of calm, storm, or tempest. This Institution promises to be a great success. It has been and will be a great boon to many hardworking honest men, and in now declaring it open may I express the hope that God's blessing may rest upon it, and that it may be of lasting use and benefit not only to the present generation, but to the generation of soldiers and sailors yet unborn. (Loud applause.)

Lieut.-General DIGBY BARKER said the satisfaction he felt in assisting in the erection of a mat shed had been further increased by finding from the statistics of the Institute how very much it had been appreciated, especially by the soldiers of the Garrison. Such an institution was of very great advantage to soldiers and, speaking as representing the military, he wished to tender his most hearty thanks to Mr. Goldsmith for the great boon he had conferred upon the soldiers and others, and he congratulated the reverend gentleman upon the great success which had attended his efforts, and hoped that he would be rewarded by seeing the institution free from debt that evening. (Applause.)

Commodore BOYES, on behalf of the Royal Navy and the merchant service, thanked Mr. Goldsmith and all those who had kindly taken

an active part in the erection of the Institute. The conditions under which seamen take their leave ashore were very different years ago from what they were at the present time. When he was a young officer the seamen had their leave ashore at long intervals, and the first idea a seaman had then was to get drunk as soon as he got ashore. If he did not his friends did not think much of him. But that state of things was altered now. It is considered a disgrace for a seaman to get drunk. (Applause). Formerly a drunken seaman was refused admission to his ship and was sent ashore to get sober. How different things were now. When a seaman has taken too much he is promptly taken on board, but he was glad to say that the number of men sent on board was very low. (Applause). With the establishment of an institution like this a man could go ashore, enjoy himself, read the papers, play a game, and sit down if he did not want to do anything, or go to sleep—a very harmless sort of way of amusing oneself—(laughter)—if one has nothing to do, and he need not spend anything for "the good of the house."

The Right Rev. Bishop BURDON appealed to those present to support the collection plate as much as possible. There was no doubt about the need of such an Institute as this, and he suggested that instead of giving dollars, it would be better to write out a cheque for £10, which would represent \$100. After Mr. Goldsmith had got a few £10 cheques the debt would be cleared. Mr. Goldsmith was going home in a short time, and he (the speaker) was sure that every one wished to see him return stronger in health and better able to carry on his good work. (Applause.)

Captain McLEOD spoke in eloquent terms of Mr. Goldsmith's work among the seamen, and of the chits which he occasionally sent round to the various ships. The speaker then proposed a vote of thanks to His Excellency for his kind attendance at the Institute. There was a reality about this work which was well worthy of support, and every day they saw more and more the need of it, and no one saw more need for it than the sailors themselves.

Colonel O'GORMAN seconded the resolution, which was carried amid spontaneous applause.

Colonel BARROW returned thanks to the many ladies who had rendered kind assistance, and said that he was sure every one would regret that this was the last occasion on which they would be favoured with the presence of Mrs. Barker.

THE FOREIGN TRADE OF CHINA IN 1894.

The following is the report on the trade of China in 1894 by the Statistical Secretary of the Imperial Maritime Customs:—

1.—General.—It is gratifying to record that notwithstanding the numerous adverse influences under which commerce laboured, especially during the latter half of the year, the results shown should be so favourable. During the spring serious drought prevailed in the South, and, concurrently, the bubonic plague appeared in Canton and Hongkong; business with the colony suffered a severe check, and traffic was hampered by the introduction of quarantine at most coast ports. In summer the political outlook became very threatening, and culminated on 1st August in a declaration of war against Japan. This announcement naturally produced great uncertainty and dread of attack at the coast ports, a state of affairs no less unsettling to trade than war itself. Measures of coast defence were adopted and certain anchorages barricaded or partially closed, causing considerable inconvenience and extra expense to shipping, and resulting in an increase in rates of freight, passage, and insurance; at the same time aids to navigation were removed at many ports. Floods damaged cereals in the North, and during the autumn a succession of destructive typhoons in South China injured the rice and sugar crops; while the mobilisation of troops throughout the provinces withdrew large bodies of men from their peaceful pursuits, which disturbed industries and entailed additional taxation on trade to meet the increased military expenditure. During the year sterling exchange fluctuated over 15 per cent., or, for demand drafts, from 3s. 1½d. (the highest rate) per Shanghai tael to 2s. 8d. Taking into consideration the many

disadvantages and disquieting causes against which trade has had to contend, the statistics reviewed hereunder are eminently satisfactory.

2.—Revenue.—The gross collection amounted to Hk.Tls. 22,523,600, or Hk.Tls. 534,300 more than in 1893. With the exception of Indian opium, each division of trade contributed to this increment. Import duties, exclusive of opium, aggregated Hk.Tls. 4,652,200, and show a gain of Hk.Tls. 461,100; both the Western and Asiatic trade participated in this advance. Export duties, foreign and domestic, also excluding opium, amounted to Hk.Tls. 8,685,200, or Hk.Tls. 281,500 in excess of the figures of the previous year, the receipts from this source exceeding the maximum collected during the most prosperous days of the tea trade. The revenue from native opium, Hk.Tls. 363,100, yielded an increase of Hk.Tls. 198,900 over the receipts of 1893, but both the import duty and likin derived from Indian opium disclose a further marked decline, as compared with the figures for the previous year, of Hk.Tls. 117,160 on account of duty and Hk.Tls. 312,430 on likin, or a total decrease of Hk.Tls. 429,590 from this source of revenue.

8.—Foreign Trade.—As regards textiles and other staple imports from gold-standard countries, it cannot be said that there is any indication of recovery from the retrograde movement, ascribed to the appreciation of gold enhancing prices and curtailing demand, which characterised the trade of 1893. In the last report reference was made to the blighting effect of high prices on consumption, notably at the great inland emporium of Chungking, in Szechwan, from which new port such great commercial results were expected, as by opening it to foreign trade all imports could be laid down, at a distance of 1,500 miles from the coast, without prepayment of the 2½ per cent. half tariff duty, or transit dues, chargeable prior to its being made a port of entry. As will be seen from the Chungking report, so far from the opening of that market creating an increasing demand for cotton goods, the effect of the appreciation of prices has produced a contrary result, for the importation of piece goods has receded from 775,000 pieces, upon which half tariff transit dues were paid, in 1890, to 542,000 pieces, though now free from that charge. Steadier but lower exchange benefited exports, and enabled shippers of China produce to lay it down in gold-standard countries at unparalleled low cost. Several articles now find a market abroad which formerly did not leave China; and the present high price paid for gold bars entitles that commodity to rank after tea and silk in aggregate value of any article enumerated in the table of exports.

(a).—Imports.—The net total value of merchandise imported aggregates Hk.Tls. 162,000,000, or Hk.Tls. 10,700,000 over the estimate of the previous year. Enhanced valuations, due to the further appreciation of gold, contributed towards this increase; but numerous articles show a conspicuous advance in quantity as well as value, notably Indian yarn, metals, coal, flour, kerosene oil, matches, sugar, and government stores. Opium, however, diminished in quantity, but yielded a marked increase in value. The total weight landed was 63,125 piculs, the lowest importation on record within the past 20 years, and less by 4,983 piculs than in 1893. This decline is attributable to greatly reduced production and a additional taxation in India, which raised the price as much as Tls. 100 a picul, thus materially lessening its chance of successful competition with the home-grown drug. That Chinese opium is rapidly displacing the imported article cannot be questioned. The tariff introduced in 1891, substituting a fixed duty (Tls. 64.80 per picul) in place of the undetermined provincial charges, appears to be working satisfactorily, judging from the increased quantity passing through the Custom-house at Chungking, 6020 piculs, for domestic use, and at Lungchow and Mengtsz, 700 piculs, for export to Tonkin. The value of cotton goods and yarn amounts to Hk.Tls. 52,100,000, or Hk.Tls. 7,000,000 more than in 1893. The total quantity of piece goods imported advanced insignificantly, although shirtings and American drills and sheetings exhibit a considerable increase; but it would be delusive to infer from these improved returns of certain classes of goods that the falling off caused by the appreciation of gold, which characterised the trade in cottons of the previous 12 months, had been arrested. Reports

from inland marts affirm that the sales of Manchester goods is restricted; and although special requirements, such as demands for army supplies, may have created a temporary abnormal stimulus and induced larger orders, the result is merely an increase in the aggregate importation of all varieties of cotton goods, namely, 14,057,000 piculs, or only 124,000 pieces over the exceedingly low aggregate, 13,933,000 pieces, of 1893. Moreover, unsold stocks at the end of 1894 were unusually large, as the anticipated consumption was over-estimated. That the China market for cottons should prove so singularly inexpansive is ascribed to the high price of textiles caused by low exchange. This contention is at least supported by statistics, which show that in 1890, when exchange averaged 5s. 2d. per Haikwan tael, the offtake of cotton goods reached, say, 17,400,000 pieces, and 18,600,000 pieces, in 1891; but on the tael declining to 3s. 2d. the importation dwindled to under 14,000,000 pieces the rise in price placing these goods beyond the reach of millions of consumers. Yet during the five years 1890-94 the area of consumption was extended by the opening of Custom-houses in three immense provinces—Yunnan, Kwangsi, and Szechwan,—each as large as kingdoms in Europe. In connexion with textiles it may be noted that the local cotton mill destroyed by fire in 1893 is rebuilt and working on a larger scale; and, as intimated in the last report, the year 1895 will probably see at least 360,000 spindles, 3,000 looms, and numerous cotton gins ready to operate in some 15 mills in course of construction or to be erected at Shanghai, Ningpo, and the Yangtze ports. The contest for supremacy between gold and silver paid industries will be watched with keen interest. To the reflective onlooker it would seem that, when both contestants are equally equipped as regards machinery, unless silver is remonetised, the conflict can only terminate in the Occident seeking refuge in protectionism, just as Australia, Canada, and the United States have sought shelter behind that bulwark from cheap Chinese labour. As compared with the statistics of the previous year, all kinds of yarn were in demand, the importation of Indian and Japanese twist exceeding the total of 1893 by 153,700 piculs. Woollen fabrics of every variety exhibit a serious decline and represent a shrinkage in value of over one million taels. The arrivals of metals, with the exception of steel, compare favourable with those of the preceding year; but, as with cotton goods, expansion in this trade cannot be looked for with prices so greatly appreciated by low exchange. Old iron is imported in larger quantities than any other kind. In 1891 the aggregate reached the maximum of 859,000 piculs; but the demand, with the decline in exchange, has now fallen to 509,000 piculs. On the outbreak of war the price of coal rose enormously; and in anticipation of extraordinary demand and a possible embargo being placed on the export of fuel from Japan, the arrivals were exceptionally large, aggregating 486,000 tons, or 57,000 tons more than in 1893. Both American and Russian kerosene oil appear in the returns for conspicuously larger deliveries than in former years, the statistics of the American product exceeding those of 1893 by 14,950,000 gallons, and of Russian oil, introduced into the Chinese market in 1883, by 4,748,000 gallons. Storage tanks for the latter oil are established at Shanghai, Amoy, and Swatow. The sugar which appears in the import table for 1,823,000 piculs is largely the product of Hongkong refineries (and originally of Chinese provenance), for which commodity there seems to be an ever-increasing demand, the deliveries during the year exceeding the importation of 1893 by 270,000 piculs. Statistics of Straits produce bear, on the whole, favourable comparison. Foreign rice (6,440,000 piculs), imported so largely by the Kwangtung province, falls far below the consignments in 1893, the deficiency, however, being made good by supplies from the Yangtze ports, amounting to 4,662,000 piculs.

b.) Exports.—Stimulated by a low rate of sterling exchange, the demand for Chinese produce has been brisk, thus augmenting the total assessed value of exports from Hk. Tls. 116,500,000 in 1893 to Hk. Tls. 128,100,000 in 1894, or an increase of Hk. Tls. 11,600,000. The majority of staple commodities contributed to this gain, as will be seen on reference to the export table, but foremost in the list are cotton, black tea,

brick tea, white raw silk, oils, hides, skins, and wool. The last-mentioned export has assumed a conspicuous position and promises to become an important staple, the production increasing within the period 1884-94 from 34,800 piculs to 226,000 piculs. Chinese wool, though now of low grade, may, when improved in quality, become a formidable rival to the Australian product, for as a wool-growing country the resources of China are still undeveloped, and the area of production north of the Yangtze river and in Mongolia is as vast as that of the colonies; and with silver at its present price, China could defy competition from all gold-standard countries. Of raw cotton, 747,000 piculs were exported, against 576,000 piculs in 1893. Japan continues to be the principal consumer, over half a million piculs being shipped to that country; but a noteworthy feature in the trade is the export to Europe of over 104,000 piculs, and so long as the favourable exchange prevails, it is probable that the European demand for the excellent cotton from Central China will be maintained. In 1884 the total export was only 53,500 piculs. The improvement in the tea trade, noticed in last report, has been maintained. The total export of all kinds was 1,862,000 piculs, estimated at Hk. Tls. 31,854,000, or 41,400 piculs in quantity and Hk. Tls. 1,296,000 in value over the total for 1893. The gain in black tea was 27,000 piculs; in brick tea, for the Asiatic Russian market, 13,200 piculs; and in tablet tea, for the same destination, 2,200 piculs. Green tea declined by 2,770 piculs, expansion in this article being checked by the untaxed Japanese leaf. In white raw silk there was also a conspicuous advance, the export for the year amounting to 73,269 piculs (including 4,344 piculs reeled in the Shanghai steam filatures), or 5,218 piculs in excess of the shipments of 1893. The season's crop was comparatively large and the foreign demand good; the low sterling exchange reduced the laying-down price to a figure hitherto unknown, and so conduced to an increased consumption. Yellow silk, much of which is of inferior quality, dropped from the exceptionally large export of the previous year, 12,345 piculs, to 9,933 piculs. The export of wild raw silk 16,240 piculs, though large, was exceeded in 1890; but the shipment of refuse silk, 66,475 piculs, surpasses previous totals. The same may be said of silk piece goods and pongees sent from Canton, Hankow, and Shanghai. In the aggregate the exports of white and brown sugar exceed the totals of the preceding year, but do not call for special note, the figures for 1894 being below those already recorded. Straw braid has become a leading industry, and, despite complaints of unsatisfactory quality, continues to advance. The export—all from North China—is the largest on record, and amounts to 120,600 piculs. In 1884 the total was 78,100 piculs. In the table of exports a highly creditable gain is noticeable against camphor, firecrackers, hair, hemp, skins, and tobacco.

(c.) Re-exports.—The reshipments to foreign countries, chiefly Japan and Russian Manchuria, show an increase in value over the total re-exports of 1893 of Hk. Tls. 1,579,000.

4.—Shipping.—The shipping trade was active and rates of freight remunerative, especially in the coasting traffic. Of vessels employed in the foreign trade, the total entries were 4,059, of 3,804,000 tons, or an increase of 241 entries, aggregating 221,000 tons, over the figures of 1893. In the coasting trade the entries amounted to 14,770, of 10,995,000 tons, or a trifle less than for the preceding year, as several Chinese steamers ceased running in consequence of the war.

5.—Treasure.—The net shipment of gold bars attained the high total of Hk. Tls. 12,774,000 (£2,044,025), which exceeds the export of 1893 by Hk. Tls. 5,315,000. The importation of silver bullion and sycee was Hk. Tls. 37,120,000, against Hk. Tls. 20,687,000 during 1893. Shipments of sycee, Hk. Tls. 10,731,000, were about the same as for the previous year, Hk. Tls. 9,883,500; but adding together the value of gold and silver bullion, inwards and outwards, the result gives a net importation for the year of Hk. Tls. 13,613,000, as compared with Hk. Tls. 2,945,000 in 1893.

6.—Values.—The following statement of the estimated value of the foreign import and export trade, exclusive of bullion, is calculated in the same way as in the report for 1890:—

	Hk. Tls.
Net imports, market value	162,102,911
Less re-exports to Korea	432,133
Net imports into China	161,670,778
Deduct import duty	4,652,202
Deduct opium duty	6,944,166
	11,596,368
Imports, less duty, etc.	150,074,410
Deduct 7 per cent. for charges, etc.	10,505,209
	139,569,201
	Hk. Tls.
Exports to foreign countries, market value	128,104,522
Exports to Korea	892,868
Less imports from Korea	439,358
	453,510
Total exports	128,558,032
Add duty, estimated at	5,847,367
Add 8 per cent. on market value for charges, etc.	10,284,643
	144,690,042

H. KOPSCH, Statistical Secretary.
Shanghai, 12th March, 1895.

COLONIAL COURT OF ADMIRALTY.

2nd April.

IN APPEAL.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT AND COMMANDER
W. C. H. HASTINGS (Assessor).

THE SCOTTISH ORIENTAL COMPANY, LIMITED,
v. THE RIO.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., appeared for the plaintiffs, who are the respondents, and Mr. A. J. Leach, Q.C., Acting Attorney-General, represented the defendants, who are the appellants.

The Acting Attorney-General said this was an appeal from the judgment of the late Acting Chief Justice, Mr. Ackroyd, sitting in Admiralty, who awarded the plaintiffs the full amount claimed, \$20,000, in respect of services rendered by their ship *Pra Chom Klao* to the steamer *Rio*, which was rescued, when in a somewhat critical condition about 10th September last. The appeal was brought to the full court. It was the first time that an appeal of this kind had been brought to the full court, and it was by reason of the Colonial Court and Admiralty Jurisdiction Act, which was passed in 1890. Formerly all appeals from the Admiralty Court were to the Privy Council, but under this Act the judgment of the lower Court was subjected to appeal to the local Court.

His Lordship, interrupting, said he thought it would be better to have an assessor in the case, as he did not know how much of the matter might hinge on nautical matters.

Mr. Francis said he did not object.

The Acting Attorney-General, continuing, explained that the Scottish Oriental Steamship Company were the owners of the *Pra Chom Klao*, which was worth £20,000. From the petition of the plaintiffs it appeared that on the 10th September whilst the *Pra Chom Klao* was on her way from Bangkok to Hongkong she saw signals of distress. She neared the distressed vessel, which was the *Rio*, and there was some agreement between the two captains, whereby the *Rio* captain accepted offer of towage from the captain of the *Pra Chom Klao* leaving terms of payment to be settled in Hongkong. The petition went on to say that the *Rio* was at the time on a voyage from Saigon to Hongkong, with a cargo of rice and 800 Chinese passengers. Two days after she left Saigon the shaft broke and the stern tube was damaged, the consequence being that the vessel leaked heavily. She had then been drifting for two days, and the petition set forth the services rendered by the *Pra Chom Klao* in rescuing the *Rio* from a dangerous and critical condition, as in case of heavy weather or a typhoon she would have been in great danger of total loss. The petition further stated that the *Pra Chom Klao* ran a considerable risk in effecting the rescue and was delayed 2½ days. The value of the *Rio* was said to be \$65,000, and the cargo was valued at \$14,000. The writ in the action claimed \$20,000 for services rendered, and the total amount was awarded by the judge. The answer set up was that the *Rio* was not in an absolutely helpless condition, and it also set up that the claim was one of towage only, and that the question of

salvage remuneration did not enter the case, and the answer otherwise qualified what was an exaggerated account of the services detailed by the plaintiffs. The defendants paid into court \$16,000, but this amount was rejected, and the case came before Mr. Justice Ackroyd on 29th October, 23rd and 24th November, and judgment was delivered on 15th December. The Acting Attorney-General then proceeded to read and comment upon the judgment of the Court below. In regard to the statement that the *Rio* was helpless at the time he submitted that she was not helpless. She had her motive power, she was fully equipped, and she had the use of her anchor and cable.

Mr. Francis considered that it was not open to the Court to consider these findings. He was there to argue only the question of amount.

His Lordship—At the beginning of his judgment Mr. Justice Ackroyd says, "I find the following facts to be admitted by the pleadings or proved to me." I was going to ask you how you are going to get behind those facts?

The Acting Attorney-General—It is not a question of fact that I am going to argue, but the question of the inference to be drawn. He could not have found, as a fact, that the ship would have gone on the rocks. I am endeavouring to point out several circumstances which he apparently, in considering the facts, overlooked or did not give sufficient weight to. I say that the Judge has given undue weight to certain facts or not given weight to certain facts, and that the amount awarded is excessive.

Mr. Francis said that if the boat had continued to drift in the direction she was going she would certainly have gone ashore at a certain point. That was a question which was considerably discussed by witnesses on both sides.

His Lordship replied that it was quite open to Mr. Leach to argue that the ship would not have continued to drift.

Mr. Francis—How can he say that the current would have changed its course?

The Acting Attorney-General—I do not say that.

His Lordship—The inference is perfectly plain, unless there are any new facts to rebut the decision of the Court below.

The Acting Attorney-General remarked that if the boat had continued drifting the captain, would, of course, have used the lead, and she would or might have anchored. He quite admitted that, assuming nothing was done to save the boat, she would have become a total wreck. As far as the authorities went they appeared to be against him on the point raised, and in the event of the case going to a higher Court he should like to save that question.

His Lordship—The Court above may say that the Court below was wrong, and that it was extraordinary that the Court below should have come to a judgment without hearing the parties upon the point. I do not propose giving judgment in any case without hearing the arguments upon it. I do not quite see how, unless you can call further evidence, you can—

The Acting Attorney-General—It is not a question of facts, my lord.

His Lordship replied that there was no doubt that the Court below held there was a towage agreement, but that the circumstances of the case were such as to demand costs of salvage. "I am afraid, Mr. Leach," observed his Lordship, "you would have been very sorry to be on board that steamer in the height of a typhoon. You would have considered yourself in great danger."

The Acting Attorney-General—Yes, no doubt, but that is not the question; the question is whether there was a binding agreement to tow.

His Lordship—You will agree that there are cases in which there is only an agreement to tow, and in which towing turned out to be in the nature of salvage?

The Acting Attorney-General—That is my difficulty. But in cases where there is a fixed agreement for towage a larger sum cannot be asked for because the towage turns out to be far more difficult than was at first anticipated. My argument is that where persons, being in a position to write an agreement, choose to select the word "towage," and call it "towage services," they cannot afterwards turn round and say, "I did not mean towage; I meant a reward generally." If the Judge went on the assumption of salvage instead of on the assumption of towage it was perfectly manifest that the amount was excessive.

His Lordship—Do you contend that the Judge was wrong in finding for salvage services and not for towage services?

The Acting Attorney-General—Certainly, my Lord.

His Lordship—At present I am against you on the facts. I have read them, but my mind is open to conviction and I would rather hear your argument.

Mr. Francis asked his Lordship to settle the point at once—whether the notice of appeal, which was simply against the amount of the award, left it open to the appellant to dispute the facts found by the Judge that salvage services were rendered.

His Lordship—Is it a question of fact or law whether it is to be held towage or salvage?

Mr. Francis—It is a question of law; the notice of appeal is only against the amount of the award.

His Lordship—The notice of appeal is a notice to dispute the amount awarded. You do not say in the notice on what ground the amount is excessive.

The Acting Attorney-General—It is not required to specify in each case the ground of appeal.

Mr. Francis—We come here, my Lord, not knowing what are the grounds of appeal. The appeal is that the amount is excessive, and not that it was given on a wrong principle.

His Lordship—I do not think it is worth while to raise the point now, because my brother Wise and I are of opinion that upon the facts before us we should come to the same conclusion as the Court below—that it was salvage and not towage. But at the same time I do not want to stop your argument.

The Acting Attorney-General then contended that when a master of a ship deliberately entered into a contract—a written agreement, not a mere verbal agreement—for towing, he was bound by the ordinary meaning of the word. If he were not so bound the right of contract would be practically done away with. One party should hold the other party to the literal meaning of the word he chose to use. Of course, if there were intervening circumstances, undoubtedly towage might be converted into salvage, but in the absence of unforeseen circumstances or supervening circumstances of more than ordinary character, the parties must be held to have in contemplation the ordinary perils of the sea, the ordinary risks which they undergo in towing, and all the changes of weather at the particular time of the season in which services are rendered. The learned counsel then quoted at considerable length various cases in support of his contention.

Mr. Francis replied on behalf of the respondents, and submitted that the appellants had no ground on which they could succeed.

Judgment was reserved.

6th April.

Judgment in this case was delivered on Saturday.

The Acting Chief Justice (His Honour Mr. W. M. Goodman) said:—A salvage suit was instituted by the Scottish Oriental S.S. Co., Ltd., as owners of the s.s. *Phra Chom Klao*, against the German s.s. *Rio*, her cargo and freight, in which the plaintiffs claimed \$20,000 for salvage remuneration for services rendered to the *Rio* from the 10th Sept., 1894, to the 14th (inclusive). The case was heard before Mr. Ackroyd (Acting Chief Justice) and Commander Hastings as Nautical Assessor, and His Honour gave his decision on 15th December, 1894, awarding the full amount claimed, viz., \$20,000. The owners of the *Rio* being dissatisfied with that decision gave notice of appeal to the Full Court, under section 5 of the Colonial Courts of Admiralty Act 1890, that Act giving a local appeal, as in ordinary civil cases. The appellants by their notice of motion sought "to vary the judgment of the 15th December, 1894, by reducing the amount of salvage remuneration awarded on the ground that the amount so awarded was excessive. The appeal came on for hearing on April 2. Mr. Leach, Q.C., argued for the appellants (the *Rio*) while Mr. Francis, Q.C., argued the case for the respondents. The facts of the case are fully set out in the judgment appealed from. It may therefore be convenient to extract the following passage from that judgment, especially as, for the purposes of this appeal, the findings of fact are not sought to be set aside. The learned Judge

said:—I find the following facts to be admitted by the pleadings or proved to me. The *Rio*, a German steamer, left Saigon on the 6th September last with a cargo of rice and 760 Chinese passengers. On the morning of the 8th September at about daylight the main shaft broke at the tail end and the stern tube was damaged. A little after sunrise sails were hoisted. The vessel was heading N. by W. and N.N.W. There was a little swell on, and a light southerly wind. During the whole of the 8th and 9th they kept up sails, and notwithstanding the signals they made by firing rockets and guns from time to time they did not see any steamer or vessel until the *Phra Chom Klao* hove in sight at 6.30 on the morning of the 10th September. At that time the *Rio* had certain flags hoisted as signals; on the fore mast she had two flags, and on the mainmast three black balls. When the *Phra Chom Klao* was within about two miles the *Rio* hoisted the signal "Will you take me in tow," to which the captain replied "Yes." The captain of the *Rio* came on board the *Phra Chom Klao* and the following agreement was written out in the log book of the steamer and signed by Capt. Davidson:—"I hereby agree to accept offer of towage from the above steamer, from here to Hongkong via Hoihow Straits, leaving terms of payment to be settled in Hongkong—C. H. Davidson, Master steamer *Rio*." After this the captain of the *Rio* went back to his ship and a steel hawser was passed by the officers and crew of the *Rio*, and they got under weigh at 9.30, intending to go through the Straits of Hainan, because as the *Phra Chom Klao* had only seven days' coal on board the captain wanted to get into a bay to take some more from the *Rio*. On the 11th he changed his course on account of a heavy N.N.W. swell coming out of the gulf, and the captain surmised there was a typhoon in the Gulf of Tonkin. There was a N.E. swell when the ship was taken in tow; it began to increase about 10 p.m. of that day, gradually grew heavier and veered round. It was coming out of the Gulf; it was heavy at times but never very bad. At 4 a.m. on the 12th it began to moderate, and after that fine weather till they arrived in Hongkong on the 14th September at 11 p.m. The hawser broke on the first day, not on account of the weather. Captain Fowler says it was partly the fault of his steamer that the hawser broke; he apologised to Captain Davidson, who said he was as much to blame. Some question has been raised as to the meaning of the signals which the *Rio* was flying when the *Phra Chom Klao* sighted her. I am advised that they were urgent signals, but I do not think that this is of any importance seeing that the *Rio* asked for and accepted the assistance of the other steamer. It is necessary to fix as near as possible the positions of the *Rio* when the accident happened and when she was sighted by the *Phra Chom Klao*. After carefully considering the evidence of the captains of both steamers I am of opinion and I am so advised that where the captain of the *Rio* has marked on the chart at B his position at 4 a.m. on the 8th September according to dead reckoning is correct. He says that during the previous 24 hours they had experienced a southerly current of about 2 miles an hour and he puts down his position B as being lat. 14.15 N. and long. 110.2 E. C represents his position at 4 p.m. on the 9th; this was south by W. $\frac{1}{2}$ W. of B.; these positions are placed as near as can be ascertained; he marks at D his position when he was picked up. Now D is 12 miles from C and W. by N. of it. Looking at the direction in which he had drifted from B to C and the time he took I am of opinion and am so advised that it was impossible, taking into consideration the weather, the current, and the swell that existed, for him to have gone from C to D. Captain Fowler has stated in his evidence that at noon on the 10th September his position was lat. 13.57 N., long. 109.55. He calculates after allowing for the set against them that they had made 10 knots from the time they took the *Rio* in tow to noon. I am of opinion and I am so advised that there is no reason to doubt the correctness of this evidence, and my nautical assessor has accordingly at my request marked on the chart at F the position of the *Phra Chom Klao* at noon on the 10th and at G the position as nearly as it can be ascertained of the *Rio* when taken in tow. The captain of the *Rio* stated in his evidence that he was heading N. by W. and N.N.W. with a light southerly wind, that during the whole of the 8th and 9th they had sails

up and that they made progress. On the morning of the 10th they had made a good deal of progress, yet when the chart is consulted it is seen that though heading N. by W. and N.N.W. during the 8th and 9th he had gone not in that direction but had drifted as I have already stated S. by W. $\frac{1}{2}$ W. There is no doubt therefore that she was to all intents and purposes helpless, and I am of opinion and am so advised that she would never have got to Quinhon, but was drifting past it, and if she had continued to drift in the same direction as she had gone from B to C she most likely would have struck the coast at the Three Kings Rocks 80 miles off, or if the position G is correct she would have gone on shore about 40 miles off on Maignia Island. The value of the *Rio* and her cargo has been fixed at \$110,000, the value of the *Phra Chom Klao* at \$200,000. Later on, in his judgment, the learned Judge below points out that the towing delayed the *Phra Chom Klao* from two to two and a half days, by which he means that she arrived at Hongkong two or three days later than she would otherwise have done but for helping the *Rio*. He also points out that the *Rio* was helpless, that is as regards motive power, that she was not in any imminent or immediate danger, but that she was drifting towards a rocky and dangerous coast and that the propeller, though secured as well as they could secure it, would have been an element of danger if bad weather had come on, as it might have broken loose. He adds, "The towage service lasted from 9.30 a.m. of the 10th till 11 p.m. of the 14th September, covering a distance of about 580 miles, in the height of the hurricane season. The weather was not bad, though at one time there was a heavy swell, and the work was most successfully performed." Upon these facts, Mr. Leach, quoting various authorities, all of which I have carefully read, contended the service was not salvage service but only towage. The learned Judge below held it was, under the circumstances, salvage service, and both Mr Justice Wise and I, myself, concur in that view. If any authority for that conclusion is wanted the cases of the *Albion*, Lushington's Admiralty Reports, p. 282, and the *Werra* suffice to show that towage can become salvage. The case of the *Werra*, reported in 12 L. R. Probate Division, p. 52, is very explicit. There, the *Werra*, which was a steamship belonging to the North German Lloyd S.S. Co., was on a voyage from Bremen to New York. She had 544 passengers on board and had lost her propelling power when she was fallen in with by the *Venetian* and towed a thousand miles to Boston. The learned Judge (Sir James Hannen) says, at pp. 53 to 54, "It appears both to me and to the Trinity Brethren that she was not saved from actual imminent risk. She had lost her propelling power, which I have often had occasion to say reduces a steamer to such a condition of impotence that to take her from the situation in which she is placed is a service which entitles those who perform it to a salvage reward." We therefore think the owners of the *Phra Chom Klao* are entitled to salvage reward. The remaining question to be decided is what, in all the circumstances of this case, is the proper amount to be awarded? I am aware the decisions show the Court above is usually unwilling to overrule the judgment of the Court below upon the question of amount of remuneration. The cases cited, all of which I have carefully considered, were numerous. I may, however, refer to some of the more important ones, such as the *Thomas Allen*, Law Reports, 12 Appeal Cases, p. 118. There, the Privy Council reduced an award of \$12,000 to \$7,500, being of opinion that the difference between the sum awarded by the Judge of the Vice-Admiralty Court at Halifax, Nova Scotia, and that which would be novel was so large as to require correction. There, the *Thomas Allen* broke her propeller shaft on a voyage from New York, when about 300 miles from Halifax. The *Austerlitz* fell in with her and agreed to tow her to Halifax and did so most successfully. The value of the *Austerlitz*, her cargo and freight, was \$132,500 and the *Thomas Allen*, with her cargo and freight, \$126,775. The *Austerlitz* was engaged 45 hours in assisting the *Thomas Allen*, to which must be added the time required to regain the position she had lost while giving this assistance, and the destination of the *Austerlitz* was Bordeaux. She was therefore delayed at least as long as the *Phra Chom Klao* arriving at her port of destination. There, as in the case of the *Rio*, the boat work in connecting the hawser

and making fast was performed by the disabled vessel. It must be remembered that both the *Phra Chom Klao* and the *Rio* were going to the same port, Hongkong, so that the *Phra Chom Klao* had not to go much out of her way. The Court of Appeal, in the case of the *Thomas Allen*, reviewed the subject of the principle which should guide it in deciding whether to alter the amount of salvage remuneration awarded below. At p. 121 (L.R. 12 App. Cases) Sir James Hannen says:—"The principle is very clearly stated in the judgment delivered by Lord Justice James in the *Glenduror*, S. R. 3 P. C. 589. He there says:—In some of the cases which have been referred to in argument the difficulty has been stated in very strong language, viz., that this Committee (i.e., of the Privy Council) would not enter into the question of quantum where there has been nothing to shock the conscience, nothing gross or extravagant (the *Carrier Dove*, 2 Moore's P. C. n.s. 214). In the case of the *Clariess*, Swabey's Reports, p. 134, there follows an accurate expression of the rule according to their Lordships' view. Their Lordships there say, "It is, however, a settled rule and one of great utility, particularly with reference to cases of this description, that the difference ought to be considerable to induce a Court of Appeal to interfere upon a question of mere discretion," and, at the conclusion of the judgment, p. 594 (i.e. judgment in the *Glenduror* case) is this passage:—"With reference to the amount of difference of estimate which would justify their Lordships to review the decisions of the learned judge, they were referred in the case to the *Scindia*, Law Rep. 1, P. C. 241, in which the Court differed to the extent of one third. Unless the difference amounted at least to that they would not have interfered." Sir James Hannen then continued "acting" on this principle and being of opinion that \$7,500 will be a liberal reward for the services rendered by the *Austerlitz* the sum will be reduced to that amount. Again in the case of the *Werra* already referred to, Sir James Hannen, speaking of the principles by which the Court is guided in awarding salvage, says, "The first thing to be considered is the value of property saved; by that I do not mean that it is to be taken as absolutely the most important element, but that it is the subject matter in respect of which the action arises. It is the fund which has to be dealt with and to be divided between the owners and the salvors who have acquired a claim upon it." The next question is as to the "actual perils from which the vessel has been saved," and then, lastly, he considers "what sacrifices and what risks were incurred in rendering the salvage service." No doubt the cases, e.g., the *Chetah*, L.R. Q. P.C. p. 211; the *Ameriques*, L.R. 6, P.C. 468; the *De Bay*, L.R. 8 Appeal cases 559, show that varying degrees of importance are attached by different Judges to the constituent factors in the claim, but I think one may well follow the ruling of the learned Judge in the case of the *Werra*. We know the value of the *Rio* and of the *Phra Chom Klao*. As regards the actual perils the learned Judge below found that the *Rio* was not in any imminent or immediate danger, though she was drifting towards a rocky and dangerous coast. Mr. Leach, however, contended she had her anchors, her lifeboat and boats and was in all respects well equipped except as to her motive power, and that she was in the track of other steamers, which facts were not in dispute. Then as to the sacrifices and risks incurred by the *Phra Chom Klao*, these were not very great. It is true she might lose \$300 or \$350 a day while detained and delayed for three days or rather less on her voyage, and no doubt she ran the risk of bad weather, which, however, did not come on. It seems to me possible from the cases cited by the learned Judge below, of life salvage, viz., the *Jeddah*, the *Medina*, and the *Schiller*, that he largely increased the amount of salvage remuneration on that account. I think it, no doubt, an important element in this case but it must be borne in mind that the 953 passengers saved, in the case of the *Jeddah*, were saved by towing the vessel to Aden, after she had been abandoned by her officers and crew, while in the case of the *Medina*, L.R. 1, P.D. 272, some 550 pilgrims, after the vessel was wrecked and the boats were rendered useless, were taken from a small sharp rock some 240 miles from Aden. They must have been in the most terrible and imminent peril, for there was barely standing room on the rock. That was partly a

question of freight for carrying them to Jeddah, but it was of course also a valuable salvage service. And in the case of the *Schiller*, L.R. 1, P.D. 473, and on appeal, L.R. 2 P.D. 145, the persons whose lives were saved, after the *Schiller* was wrecked off the Scilly Island, were saved from most imminent peril, some actually being in the water at the time. Now, considering the whole circumstances of this case it seems to me the amount awarded by the learned Judge below was excessive as compared with other cases of a not entirely dissimilar kind. I consider \$13,000 to be a fair, even liberal amount to fix, and I am of opinion that is the sum which should be awarded for the salvage services rendered by the *Phra Chom Klao* to the *Rio*, and I reduce the sum of \$20,000 to \$13,000 accordingly. Each party must bear his own costs of this appeal.

The Acting Puisne Judge (His Honour Mr. A. G. Wise)—I concur. I have nothing further to add except that I am not quite certain the cases that have been quoted of the *Scindia* and the *Thomas Allen* lay it down as a hard and fast rule that the reduction must be exactly one-third.

THE END OF THE COOLIE STRIKE.

April 3rd.

Several stevedores have expressed their intention of registering to-day and resuming work with the usual supply of coolies. There is no doubt a growing feeling among the stevedores that the strike should terminate at once. And it is about time, too, for the rod which the coolies have been pickling for their own backs is getting more pliable and more stinging every day. This rod is a figurative term for an increase in the prices of Chinese food. Rice has gone up 10 per cent., pork 80 per cent., vegetables 40 per cent., salt fish 50 per cent., firewood 25 per cent., fresh water fish 40 per cent., chicken 15 per cent. Of course if the strike continues prices will be still further enhanced, but there seems to be every probability that to-day will see the beginning of the end.

Yesterday the police succeeded in getting upwards of 500 coolies to work for various firms at the rate of \$1 a day each. Inspector Stanton and Sergeant McIvor were busy all day yesterday in engaging coolies; in fact, the police compound at the Central Police Station presented the appearance during yesterday of a thriving coolie firm. Hundreds of coolies assembled in the compound, and they all seemed to be very eager to be engaged, especially at such a princely salary. The Captain Superintendent of Police has sent round a notification to the various firms stating that coolies can be supplied from the Police Station.

Last night we received a communication from one of the leading Chinese business men to the effect that there was every probability of the stevedores and coal coolies returning to work this morning. The coal coolies at Kowloon, who had been working the Charbonnages coal, were nearly starved out, and it was believed they would return to work to-day.

COOLIES OBTAINABLE FROM AMOY.

In reply to a telegram to the British Consul at Amoy from the Colonial Secretary enquiring whether labouring coolies could be procured in that neighbourhood, an answer has been received that some coolies can be procured at once, wages six to seven dollars a month, and that in a short time thousands of coolies could be got.

THE GOVERNOR SUGGESTS MEASURES TO THE EMPLOYERS OF LABOUR.

The following letter has been addressed by the Government to the Chamber of Commerce:—
Colonial Secretary's Office.
2nd April, 1895.

Sir.—I am directed by H.E. the Governor to state, for the information of the Chamber of Commerce and for communication to the representatives of the shipping firms in the colony, that the following facts have been brought to his knowledge in connection with the present coolie strike:—

(1)—That several firms have had offers from one or more Chinamen to supply them with 3,000 coolies at the usual stevedore rates, provided that permanent employment as stevedore, for a period of years was guaranteed to the maker or makers of the offers.

(2)—That such offers have in each case been declined, owing to the reluctance of the firms concerned to dispense with the services of their present employees, despite the fact that those

employés refuse to work and to comply with the law.

(3).—That several firms have a clause in their agreements with their compradores to the effect that the latter bind themselves to supply coolies to work cargo at a certain rate per ton at any time and in any numbers that may be necessary.

(4).—That in no instance does it appear that any of the firms in question have taken the necessary steps to enforce by law the clause referred to above, although their compradores have failed to fulfil the terms of their agreements.

From the above facts it appears that although many of the leading firms have had it in their power to take steps calculated to put an end to the present strike by engaging persons who are willing and ready to obtain labour, or by resorting to legal measures, they have remained passive, and desire to cast the entire responsibility in bringing matters to a satisfactory termination upon the Government.

Whilst not desiring to avoid any responsibility that may rightly fall upon the Government, H.E. the Governor cannot but regard the inaction referred to above as inconsistent with the public professions of loyalty to the Government and with the promises of strong support and hearty co-operation in the present crisis which have been made by the community and H.E. would therefore appeal to the representatives of commercial firms of this colony to give practical effect to those professions of loyalty and promises of co-operation by no longer hesitating to employ persons who are willing to obtain labour and by taking the other steps indicated above, not only in the protection of their own interests, but in support of the Government.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

(Sd.) J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce, &c., &c.,

4th April.

The coolie strike may now be said to be practically over. At any rate, the intention expressed on Monday by many of the stevedores and head coolies of registering was carried out yesterday, when upwards of eighty Chinamen went to the Registrar-General's office and took out licences in respect of their common lodging houses. All those who registered were coolies from Wanchai, and up to the present not a single shore coolie has registered. But there is no doubt that, a start having at length been made towards the registration of the houses, all the keepers will follow the example of those who took out licences yesterday, and in a day or so it is most likely that the whole of the keepers will have conformed with the requirements of the Ordinance. Two or three days, perhaps a week, will have to elapse before the coolies' work proceeds on its former smooth course, as many coolies are out of the colony, the head men are away, and things generally are just now a bit mixed. Yesterday the police were still busily engaged in supplying coolies for various firms and over 1,000 were sent to work. The supply yesterday far exceeded the demand and the result was that labour was at a discount. On the previous day a dollar was given to each coolie; yesterday the price paid was 75 cents. In the early morning there was an extraordinary rush of coolies to the compound at the Central Police Station, and Inspector Stanton had an enormous amount of work to do in making the selections. The coolies all showed such impetuous haste to return to work that at times the crush was really serious, and there were evident signs of disappointment on the faces of all the coolies who were unsuccessful. It is doubtful whether the police will carry on this system to-day, as, of course, if all the stevedores register, there will be no necessity to ask for police assistance.

5th April.

As everybody expected the Government has succeeded. The coolie strike is over, and it is to be hoped there will never be a renewal of the trouble. On Thursday morning all the coolies returned to work, and everywhere there were unmistakeable signs of brisk business being done. The majority of the lodging houses will be registered, and no doubt, ere long, all the keepers will have conformed with the requirements of the law.

A notification appears in the *Gazette* limiting the water supply to various houses. The amounts allowed vary from five gallons per head per diem to twenty gallons.

MUTINY ON A BRITISH VESSEL.

ONE OF THE CREW KILLED BY THE CAPTAIN. A mutinous outbreak, which ended fatally, occurred on board the British barque *Launberga*. Whilst the ship was at Iloilo on the night of the 24th ult. several of the crew got intoxicated, and asked the captain for leave to go ashore. The captain refused permission, and the drunken members of the crew then turned upon him and the second officer. Deadly weapons were freely used, and one of the men, Patrick Kelly, stabbed the captain three times. The captain, in his own defence, pulled out his revolver, and shot the assailant dead. The second officer was badly mauled, and he wounded two of the crew with his revolver. The mutiny was reported to the police at Iloilo, and the culprits were taken into custody, and afterwards the authorities ordered them to be taken as prisoners on a British steamer to Hongkong. They were taken to Manila by the British steamer *Venus* and transferred to the *Zafiro*, which arrived in this port yesterday afternoon. A constable boarded the boat and took the prisoners to the Water Police Station at Kowloon, where they were charged by Inspector Hennessey. Four of the men, George Brown, A. Schumen, J. S. Laud, and J. Goydziewski, were charged with attempted murder and mutiny, and the fifth, Hans Abrams, was charged with mutiny.

PROCEEDINGS AT THE POLICE COURT. At the Police Court on Tuesday, before Commander W. C. H. Hastings, George Brown, J. S. Laud, J. Goydziewski, and Hans Abrams, seamen, were placed in the dock charged with attempted murder and mutiny on board the British barque *Launberga* at Iloilo on the night of the 24th ult.

Mr. Ellis appeared to prosecute and asked whether all the prisoners were charged with attempted murder, and the Magistrate told him they were. Mr. Ellis said he thought that Abrams was charged with mutiny only, but, of course, whatever the charge was, it would not affect what the Magistrate committed the accused for.

Mr. Ellis called attention to the fact that there were only four prisoners in the dock, whereas five were arrested at Iloilo.

The captain of the *Launberga*, Mr. McDougall, who appeared in the witness box showing a long gash on his forehead, explained that the absent man, A. Schumen, died in the Iloilo gaol.

P.C. Campbell gave evidence of the arrest of the prisoners on the *Zafiro* on Sunday, and Mr. Ellis asked for a remand until Thursday.

The Magistrate enquired whether there was a warrant. Mr. Ellis said there was not. The prisoners were sent to Hongkong by the naval authorities at Iloilo, and the papers were sent to the Harbour Master.

The prisoners, who pleaded not guilty, were remanded until Thursday, and they asked to be defended by a solicitor.

The Magistrate asked if they had enough money with which to obtain legal assistance, and they all replied that they could get £20 between them, as some money was owing to them.

VICTORIA RECREATION CLUB.

ANNUAL ATHLETIC SPORTS.

On Saturday afternoon the Victoria Recreation Club held its first annual athletic meeting at the Happy Valley. Formerly the sports of the colony were arranged under the auspices of the Hongkong Athletic Club, now defunct, but the gatherings were not latterly successful, and last year there was such a lack of energy that there was no meeting at all. To the Victoria Recreation Club must be given every credit for reviving field sports in Hongkong, and it must have been very encouraging to the Committee to see such a large attendance of spectators on Saturday. There can be no question about the success of the sports. A capital miscellaneous programme had been provided, and a goodly number of competitors turned out. In several instances the finishes were very close indeed and the numerous spectators showed unbounded enthusiasm. Unfortunately a strong wind prevailed during most of the afternoon. The times recorded were exceptionally fast, but in the majority of instances the distance run was short, so that the times cannot be considered. A large number of ladies graced the proceedings

with their presence, and amongst those on the ground were His Excellency Sir William Robinson, Vice-Admiral Sir E. B. Fremantle, and Lieutenant-General Digby Barker. The following is a list of the officials—

Patrons—His Excellency Sir William Robinson, K.C.M.G., &c., &c.; H.E. Vice-Admiral Sir E. B. Fremantle, K.C.B., C.M.G., &c.; H.E. Lieutenant-General G. Digby Barker, C.B.; Commodore G. T. H. Boyes, R.N.

Committee—Messrs. H. E. Wodehouse (Chairman), R. K. Leigh, G. A. Caldwell, E. F. Mackay, W. Macchell, Capt. Tunnard, R.N.; Major Pemberton, R.B.; Messrs. C. C. Bowring, C. H. Thompson, R. F. Lammert, E. D. Sanders. Judges—Dr. J. M. Atkinson; Capt. Tunnard, R.N.; Major Pemberton, R.B.; Lieut. L. Thresher, R.B.

Referee—Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart. Handicappers—Mr. G. Caldwell, Lieut. L. Thresher, R.B.; Sir Robert Arbuthnot, R.N. Clerks of the Course—Lieut. E. L. G. Leatham, R.N.; Mr. A. Denison, Mr. G. H. Potts.

Starter—Mr. G. A. Caldwell. Timekeepers—Messrs. E. J. Hughes, R. K. Leigh, Hart Buck.

Hon. Treasurer—Mr. C. C. Bowring.

Hon. Secretary—Mr. E. D. Sanders.

The Band of H.M.S. *Centurion* played the following programme during the afternoon:—

March	"Werder"	Willman.
Overture	"Soir D'Automne"	Bonillon.
Valse	"Casino Tanze"	Gung'l.
Selection	"Dorothy"	Cellier.
Lancers	"The Connaught"	D'Albert.
Selection	"Babylonia"	Williams.
Valse	"Sur la Mer"	Mitchell.
Galop	"Inspection"	Fenning.
	God save the Queen.	

120 YARDS FLAT RACE (Handicap); first prize presented by Hon. A. J. Leach, Q.C.; second prize presented; first two in each heat to run in the final.

First Heat (3 competitors).—G. L. Lysley, R.

B. scratch 1

F. W. White, 6 yards 2

A comparatively easy win.

Second Heat (5 competitors).—F. H. Kew,

2 yards 1

W. Armstrong, 4 yards 2

Won easily. Time 12½ secs.

Final—F. H. Kew 1

G. L. Lysley 2

W. Armstrong 3

This was a good race, and Kew, amid some excitement, reached the tape 1½ yards ahead.

LONG JUMP (three tries); prize presented by

Mr. D. R. Sassoon.

F. A. Waylen, 13 ft. 8 in. 1

F. H. Kew, 17 ft. 6 in. 2

There were 5 competitors.

THROWING THE CRICKET BALL (three tries);

prize presented by the Hongkong Cricket Club.

J. M. S. Machado, 95 yards 1

There were six competitors, Machado winning by a considerable distance, F. A. Waylen was second.

100 YARDS FLAT RACE RACE; trial heats;

first prize presented by Mr. H. E. Wodehouse, C.M.G.; second prize presented.

G. L. Lysley 1

F. H. Kew 2

Seven competitors turned out, and Lysley won by half a yard.

PUTTING THE SHOT (16 lbs); winners at previous meetings at Hongkong and elsewhere to be penalised one foot; prize presented by

Mr. C. J. Holliday.

H. W. James, R.N., 32ft. 10in 1

C. C. Bowring 2

TUG-OF-WAR; trial heats; 8 men a side; open to non-commissioned officers and men of the Army, Navy and Police; each ship, Regiment or Corps may enter one team only; to be pulled over 15 feet; no spikes or nails allowed; no sitting down; no holes to be dug in the ground before pulling; prize presented.

The following teams entered:—Seamen's team, H.M.S. *Centurion*; Royal Marines team, H.M.S. *Centurion*; Royal Artillery team; Royal Engineers team; Royal Marines team, H.M.S. *Victor Emanuel*; H.M.S. *Gibraltar* team; Hongkong Regiment team.

First Round—

Royal Artillery team beat Royal Marines, H.M.S. *Centurion*.

H.M.S. *Gibraltar* team beat Marines' team, H.M.S. *Victor Emanuel*.

Second Round—

Royal Artillery team beat Hongkong Regiment team.

H.M.S. *Gibraltar* team beat the Seamen's team, H.M.S. *Centurion*.

Final—Royal Artillery team beat H.M.S. *Gibraltar*'s team.

The final produced a splendid struggle, and the winners were certainly the better team. At the word "go" they pounced upon their heels, got a firm grip of the ground, and pulled mightily. It was quite a treat to see these burly teams tugging for supremacy, but the Artillery certainly gained an advantage in making such a determined start.

HIGH JUMP; (three tries); prize presented by Victoria Recreation Club.

P. Hyndman, 5ft. 2in. 1

W. Armstrong 2

There were four competitors.

120 YARDS HURDLE RACE, 10 Flights; previous winners at Hongkong or elsewhere to be penalised 2½ yards, first prize presented by Hon. J. J. Keswick. Second prize presented.

F. A. Waylen 1

P. Hyndman 2

W. Armstrong 3

Waylen cleared splendidly and won in very good style. There were five competitors.

HALF MILE FLAT RACE (Handicap); open to Soldiers, Sailors and Police. Two prizes presented.

Private Hale, R.B. 1

Private Ryder, R.B. 2

The five competitors showed very poor form.

220 YARDS FLAT RACE (Handicap); first prize presented by Mr. D. Landale, second prize presented.

G. L. Lysley, R. B., 5 yards †

F. H. Kew, 8 yards †

W. Armstrong 3

There was considerable excitement at the finish, and Lysley and Kew had to be content with a tie. There were five competitors.

BICYCLE RACE, One Mile; start in saddle, first prize presented by Mr. T. Jackson, second prize presented.

F. W. White 1

F. E. Shuster 2

Five competitors turned out.

220 YARDS RACE.—Open to Soldiers, Sailors and Police; two prizes, presented by the Hongkong Athletic Club.

Private Hall 1

Private Ryder 2

Five competitors started, and a good race resulted.

HALF MILE FLAT RACE (Handicap); first prize presented by Mr. J. D. Humphreys; second prize presented.

E. F. Mackay, scratch 1

E. D. Sanders, 15 yards 2

Mackay had a close fight with Sanders, the winner getting home by about a yard. There were three other competitors.

ONE MILE FLAT RACE; first prize presented by Hongkong Athletic Club; second prize presented.

Ross Thomson 1

J. M. E. de Carvalho 2

Thomson spurred finely and raced away beautifully from his four opponents.

VETERANS' RACE; 120 YARDS FLAT RACE (Handicap); competitors to be over 35 years of age and not less than 10 years' residence in India, China or the Tropics; prize presented by the Hon. C. P. Chater.

Capt. J. T. Carter, 12 yards 1

W. Macbean, 5 yards 2

A. Denis, scratch 3

This was an interesting encounter, but the scratch man could not get within dangerous distance of the leader.

440 YARDS FLAT RACE, CHALLENGE CUP (to be won two years in succession before becoming the property of a competitor); first prize presented by Hongkong Athletic Club; second prize presented.

H. W. James, R.N. 1

F. H. Kew 2

There were seven competitors, and James and Kew had a stiff struggle for first place.

CONSOLATION RACE; 120 yards; post entries; open to all competitors (except those in open events) who have run but not won a prize. Prize presented by Hongkong Athletic Club.

W. Armstrong 1

There were six competitors.

At the conclusion of the meeting Mrs. Barker

distributed the prizes to the successful competitors, and this ceremony over.

Mr. Wodehouse asked the company present to give three cheers for His Excellency the Governor, who had honoured them with his presence on this occasion. Whenever there was anything in which the community took an interest, His Excellency favoured the occasion with his presence.

Three hearty cheers and the "tiger" were thereupon given for the Governor.

Mr. Wodehouse, on behalf of the members of the Club and of those who had taken an active interest in the athletic sports, thanked Mrs. Barker for kindly presenting the prizes. It was not the first time they had had to return thanks to Mrs. Barker, and the members of the Club would always retain a grateful recollection of the kindly interest she had taken in the sports. He was extremely sorry that on this occasion they had to take farewell of Mrs. Barker, and he sincerely hoped that she would take away pleasant remembrances of this club, and that she would not forget the many friends she had here. During the five years she had been in this colony she had endeared herself to the whole community—(applause)—and he was not saying too much that the community felt deeply indebted to her for the great interest she had taken in everything which concerned the public. (Applause). He hoped that, in taking leave of Hongkong, she would feel that she had had not altogether an unpleasant time here. (Applause). They were also greatly indebted to Lieutenant-General Barker and Miss Barker, and kind feelings would always be entertained for them. Everyone wished them a very pleasant voyage, and hoped to have the pleasure of meeting them again. (Applause).

Cheers were then given for Lieutenant-General Barker, Mrs. Barker, and Miss Barker, and also for Mr. Sanders, the Honorary Secretary, who, said Mr. Wodehouse, had taken a lot of trouble in organising the sports and bringing them to a successful conclusion. If it had not been for Mr. Sanders the sports would not have been so successful.

Three cheers were also accorded Mr. Wodehouse and the members of the Club.

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

16th CLUB RACE.

The course on Sunday for the 16th Club race was from the starting line opposite the Submarine Mining Pier, round the Kowloon Dock buoy, a markboat near the Lyeemun Pass, Kowloon dock buoy, and markboat off Lyeemun Pass a second time, and back to the line.

First class.—The following boats started at 11.15.—*Dart*, *Erica*, *Ladybird*, *Payne*, and *Stella*.

The wind was light from the South and the line was crossed by *Payne* and *Stella*, *Erica*, *Ladybird*, and *Dart*, the *Payne* some distance to windward of the other four, which formed a cluster round the dinghy. The *Erica* at once came to the front and led all the way to the Dock buoy.

The other four took turn about for second place until near the buoy, when *Stella* fell to the rear. The order at the Dock buoy was—*Erica*, *Payne*, *Ladybird*, *Dart*, and *Stella*.

In the reach towards the Lyeemun mark the leading boat kept in the middle of the channel, each succeeding boat going up a little further to windward, the *Stella* making for North Point Fort close hauled. When abreast of the fort, all the boats struck a flat calm and waited for the east wind, which was making its way slowly westward. *Erica* caught it first, a few seconds before *Payne*, then *Dart* and *Ladybird*, but *Stella* had to wait about ten minutes for her turn.

It was then a beat to the mark near the Pass, *Erica* and *Ladybird* working the south side and *Payne*, *Dart*, and *Stella* the north-east shore. There was not much choice, as the wind was fairly good on both sides and the mark was rounded by *Erica* about three minutes in front of *Payne*, which was about a minute ahead of *Dart*, with *Ladybird* a good fourth; *Stella* brought up the rear about ten minutes after *Ladybird*.

In the run down to the Dock buoy the boats struck the same calm they had experienced on the way up.

In the meantime the second class, consisting of *Elfin*, *She*, and *Seabreeze*, had started at 11.25, with the same experience as the first class, and rounded the Lyeemun mark fairly close together, the *Elfin* leading, with *She* second. They over-

took the first class boats at the calm off North Point in the run down.

Payne, by keeping close in shore under the fort, had a slight air along the land and worked into first place, and getting the south wind out of Causeway Bay rounded the buoy some two or three minutes ahead of *Erica*. *Ladybird* was next round the buoy, about 15 minutes after *Erica*, with *Elfin* close astern. All the other boats were becalmed in different parts of the channel.

By keeping over to the Hongkong shore the four leading boats were able to drift through the calm for the third time, *Payne* catching the east wind first, some ten minutes before *Erica*, *Ladybird* about the same time after, and *Elfin* five minutes later. In the beat up to the Lyeemun *Erica* closed up considerably on *Payne* and rounded the mark boat five minutes after her. *Ladybird* when met by *Payne* on the return journey hauled down her flag and bore away for home. *Elfin* went on her weary way round the course, and had a walk over in her class. *Payne* and *Erica* held the wind, such as it was, down to the shipping off Kellett's Island, when the former was becalmed. *Erica* took a short tack to the south and drifted into first place again, and catching a light wind off shore reached across the line at 3.26.03, the *Payne* being second at 3.23.15. *Dart* and *Stella*, after rounding the Kowloon Dock buoy, seeing that the *Payne* and *Erica* had already passed them on their way home, gave up; as did *She* and *Seabreeze*. *Elfin* finished at 3.46.14, winning the race in her class. The points made by each boat are as follows:—

1st Class.		2nd Class.	
<i>Dart</i>	95	<i>Elfin</i>	75
<i>Erica</i>	72	<i>She</i>	58
<i>Payne</i>	36	<i>Kitten</i>	29
<i>Stella</i>	15	<i>Seabreeze</i>	31
<i>Petrel</i>	15	<i>Mary Ann</i>	10
<i>Ladybird</i>	4		

This race practically finished the racing for the club prizes, the *Dart* winning the championship for the season, with the *Erica* second, and the *Elfin* the first prize in the second class, with *She* close up.

THE TERMS OF PEACE.

The terms of the arrangements made between China and Japan for a Treaty of Peace have not yet been given to the public, but the following synopsis, from reliable native sources, may be taken as near the mark, namely, that Japan has signified her willingness to accept an indemnity of four hundred million dollars, the island of Formosa to be held by her as a guarantee for the payment of same. This is presumably in deference to Great Britain, who regards the giving up of Formosa as a menace to her interests in the Far East, and which would necessitate the occupation of the Chusan Archipelago by her in order to preserve the balance of power. As for Manchuria the same reasons held good in regard to Russia, hence Japan retains only the Regent's Sword, from Port Arthur at the southernmost end up to the city of Kaichow and its dependencies on the north. A basis for a close alliance between China and Japan will also be settled upon, and China consents to follow Japan's lead as to reforms in her government, army, and navy, as well as in her foreign policy.—*N. C. Daily News*.

JELEBU MINING AND TRADING COMPANY, LIMITED

The following is the half-yearly report of the above Company:—

Gentlemen,—Your directors submit a statement of the Company's accounts for the period from 1st August 1894, to 26th January 1895, being the second half of the sixth year of the Company's existence by the Chinese calendar.

The total number of mines at work on the 26th January was 22, against 25 at the end of the previous half year.

The labour force has decreased by 222 men and is now 922.

The amount of ore and tin produced and delivered during the period under report was—4,017 piculs ore and 176 piculs tin against 3,620 piculs ore and 163 piculs tin for the previous half year; and against 7,452 piculs ore and 315 piculs tin for the corresponding or second half of 1893.

The outstanding advances amounted on 26th January (after deducting \$12,997 written off as bad and doubtful debts) to \$17,974. The manager reports these advances to be safe.

After paying all charges, writing off the cost of prospecting and surveying and a loss on road contracts, and making the usual allowances for depreciation of houses, plant, and furniture, there remains at

the credit of profit and loss account the balance of \$4,209.

Out of that balance your directors recommend the sum of \$2,723 to be placed to the reserve fund, in order to bring the reserve to the previous amount of \$25,000. The balance remaining of \$1,486 is proposed to be carried forward.

This appropriation to reserve appears especially desirable in view of the Maliwun undertaking.

The Company continues the work of testing a tin bearing lode at Jelubu. The reports of the prospectors engaged in the lode are very hopeful; but no large sum will be sunk in machinery till the lode is better proved. The net cost of prospecting during the half-year appears only as \$2,228, owing to the fact that the proceeds of a quantity of tin won during the operations were credited to the prospecting account.

The operations at Jelubu are continued, in the absence of the manager, under the direction of his senior assistant.

The future of the Company very largely depends on the results to be attained from the important concession in Lower Burma, acquired by the Company from Mr. Menzell, and recently confirmed to the Company by the Government of India. Mr. Money, the Manager of the Company, is now at Maliwun, and he reports that the local Government seem disposed to give the Company all encouragement in proving and developing this very large concession.

The directors to retire by rotation are Messrs. Joachim and Reid, who offer themselves for re-election.

The auditor, Mr. A. J. Gunn, retires from office and offers himself for re-election.

J. P. JOAQUIM, } Directors.
ARNOT REID, }
HUTTENBACH BROTHERS & Co,
General Agents.

HALL & HOLTZ, LIMITED.

The following is the report of the directors for presentation to the shareholders at the third ordinary general meeting to be held at the head office of the Company, at Shanghai, on the 6th April:—

The directors herewith submit to the shareholders the audited accounts of the Company for the year ended 28th February, 1895.

The balance available for distribution (including \$11,603.04 brought forward from last year) amounts to \$58,815.32, which the directors recommend, with the consent of the shareholders, should be disposed of as follows:—

A dividend of 10 per cent.	\$12,500.00
To write off fixtures, stud, and vans	5,465.04
Carry to reserve fund	25,000.00
Carry to depreciation account	5,000.00
Leaving a balance to carry forward to new account.....	10,850.28

The returns compare favourably with previous records, the net sales for the year amounting to \$381,732.89.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. E. Byrne was granted twelve months' leave of absence, and Mr. W. H. Short was elected to fill the vacancy. This requires your confirmation. Mr. F. W. Such retires in accordance with the articles of association, but being eligible offers himself for re-election.

AUDITOR.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. G. R. Corner, who retires, but offers himself for re-election.

F. W. SUCH, Chairman.

Shanghai, 26th March, 1895.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinion expressed by our Correspondents.]

MR. ROBINSON ON THE COOLIE STRIKE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—Your report of my remarks at the public meeting of the 1st instant is not very correct. I should like to add something on the main point. The object the Government and the whole European community have in view is sanitation: what the coolies have struck against is registration. Does the one necessarily involve the other? If it does, there is no resource but to carry on the struggle until exhaustion. But if not, then it strikes me that that is only a feeble-forebode policy that insists on dislocating the entire trade of the colony merely to carry a point on a matter non-essential. I hold that the Government should have gauged Chinese feeling earlier and should never have allowed the dispute to reach the acute stage; but having reached it, obstinacy in a wrong course only makes the original blunder worse. In spite of temporary effervescence in favour of a fight for the fight's sake, cool common sense will be the quality which the community will ultimately best appreciate in the conduct of the Government. I have stated, as your report shows, my grounds for thinking that legislation under the Ordinance does involve

the head coolies in the likelihood of serious hardship. Risks of fine and imprisonment, mental worry, unremunerated labour, fear of blackmail, sum up the situation from the head coolie's point of view, and unable to make his grievances effectively heard he has gone on strike as a protest in last resort against the coming evil. Now, is there no other way of getting sanitation except by throwing the onus and responsibility on the head coolies. I suggest that there is. I suggest that it is not necessary to throw the dreaded responsibility either on the householder or on the head coolie. Let the Government do its own sanitary work. Establish a body of concierges, or house-porters, state paid. If necessary put one in each coolie-house to look after the cleaning and the drains, and the open windows, and the register of inmates and the other hundred and one things that may be required to be done. Then the work will be well done, and continuously done, under the eye of the Sanitary Board's inspectors, and if a concierge is remiss he will be dismissed. Assuming (but this is mere guesswork) that there are 500 coolie lodging houses and that each would require the exclusive services of one house-porter, then 500 men at a wage of \$3 each would involve an expenditure of \$300 a month, or \$3,600 a year, not an extravagant sum to pay for thorough sanitation, and this body of men could be utilized in quite a number of ways to the advantage of the Registrar-General's and Police departments. We intend to have sanitation; but we cannot have it without paying for it in some shape or other. The question of expense appears to resolve itself into a choice between direct and indirect taxation. Probably the former, where feasible, is the more economical. Some indirect taxation there must be. Fewer coolies per house means of course more rent per coolie, and that means a rise of wages, which resolves itself into a tax on employers and consumers. The expense of a house-porter brigade might reasonably fall directly on the rates, for the whole community would benefit by the increase of safety due to the purification of the town.

ED. ROBINSON.

Hongkong, 2nd April, 1895.

HONGKONG.

The shipping business is no longer in a disorganised state, as the coolies returned to work during the week, and a large number of common lodging house keepers registered. Several summonses have been issued against keepers for not conforming with the law, and in the majority of cases fines were inflicted. On Tuesday the appeal in the *Rio* case was heard, and judgment given on Saturday. The Appeal Court has also been engaged in hearing the appeal in the *Lee King* and *Carlowitz* charter party case. On Tuesday afternoon H. E. the Governor, Sir William Robinson, opened the Kowloon Institute, and made an excellent speech on the necessity for such institutions. The annual inspection of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps was made by Lieutenant-General Barker, who congratulated the members on their smart appearance and meritorious work. The Legislative Council met on Thursday and passed the Chinese Immigration Ordinance, the Water Ordinance, and the Building Ordinance. On Saturday the Hongkong Cricket Club entertained Mr. A. J. Leach, Q.C., who is leaving the colony, to dinner. The Victoria Recreation Club athletic sports were held on Saturday afternoon, and proved a great success. On Saturday evening Mr. D. Gillies was presented with a handsome address by the members of the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders of Hongkong. Mr. Gillies is President of the Institution, and is going home for a holiday. Two performances of Mendelssohn's *Hymn of Praise* were given during the week, and were a great success.

The Blue funnel steamer *Polyphemus*, which arrived from home on Monday under charter to the China Mutual Company, will go into dock after discharging her cargo, having touched a rock near Gap Rock during a fog and damaged some of her forward plates.

We are advised by the Secretary of the Pungam Mining Company of the receipt of a telegram from the mines to the effect that during the month of March the mill ran 28 days, crushing 960 tons yielding 420 ounces of gold and headings 400 tons for 40 ounces.

The appointments of M. A. G. Wise to be Acting Attorney-General and of Mr. T. S. Smith to be Acting Puisne Judge are gazetted.

We have to thank a correspondent for photographic views of the Saigon Cathedral showing the handsome new spires in course of erection and completed.

The stamp revenue for the first quarter of the present year was \$14,702, being an increase of \$13,746 on the amount collected in the corresponding quarter of last year. The principal increases were in bank note duty, \$4,565, insurance \$2,955, and probate \$2,590.

On Tuesday morning (2nd inst.) His Excellency Lieut.-General Digby Barker made an inspection of the men of the Royal Artillery. The two batteries, divided into four companies, were drawn up on the Parade Ground in full dress, and were carefully inspected by the General. The force, which numbered about 220 men, looked very smart and soldierly.

A Reuter's telegram of the 28th March in the *Bangkok Times* reads:—"The plague has appeared among the Chinese at Kowloon." It is regrettable that this statement, calculated to cause alarm at home, should have been published, seeing that it is, so far as can be ascertained, incorrect. Some time ago several sudden deaths occurred at Kowloon, and plague was alleged as the cause, but careful enquiries by the Hongkong Sanitary authorities failed to establish the existence of that disease.

The following telegram has been received by the New Balmoral Gold Mining Co., Limited, from the mines:—"Henderson in better health. Crushing not yet finished; until clean up cannot give actual result. The developments of the mine fully justify the expectations that have been formed. Much pleased with the appearance." The telegram is in reply to a message sent from Hongkong enquiring as to the state of Mr. Henderson's health, he having been laid up when the mail received by the *Airlie* was dispatched. Mr. Henderson is the mining manager.

At three o'clock on Saturday morning a fire broke out at 1, Queen's Street. The shop was used as a mat store, but, although a very strong wind was blowing at the time, the Fire Brigade, under Mr. H. E. Wodehouse and Assistant Superintendent Corcoran, succeeded in confining the damage to the first and second floors. There was no light on the premises previous to the outbreak, and it is supposed that the fire had its origin in a stray spark blown into the place through an open window. The contents were insured in the Hamburg Fire Insurance Company for \$6,000, and it is thought that the damage almost reaches the amount of the insurance.

On Tuesday Mr. H. E. Wodehouse held an inquiry respecting the fire at 1, Queen's Street, on the morning of the 6th inst. It was stated that the master of the shop went to Canton on the 4th inst. and returned on the 8th inst., and the accountant went to Canton on the 3rd inst. and had not yet returned. There were fifteen men sleeping on the premises, which were used as a mat shop. The place was closed at 9 p.m. on the night previous to the fire, and no one left the shop until the fire broke out. There were no lights on the upper floors at 9 p.m. The goods in the shop were insured for \$5,000 and the furniture for \$1,000. The enquiry was adjourned until Tuesday next.

On Tuesday Mr. H. E. Wodehouse held an inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Corporal Rawlinson, of the Rifle Brigade. The deceased was drowned in the harbour on the 31st ult. About eleven o'clock on the morning of this date he and five companions took a boat and rowed to Bay View. They remained there half an hour, and were quite sober when they entered the boat again. They then rowed to within thirty yards of Kellett's Island, when the boat suddenly lurched, and the deceased, who was 25 years of age, and a native of London, fell overboard. He did not rise and although two of his comrades dived into the water after him, they were unable to recover his body. It is supposed that the corporal stood up to wave his handkerchief to signal to the gaid on Kellett's Island, when he fell over. His body was recovered on the morning of the 5th inst. on the foreshore of the island. A verdict of accidental death was returned.

The following returns of the average amount of Bank notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong during the month ended 31st March, 1895, as certified by the Managers of the respective Banks, are published:—

Banks.	Average Amount.	Specie in Reserve.
Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China	1,254,215	800,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	5,895,785	2,500,000
National Bank of China, Ltd.	358,975	219,000
	\$7,538,975	\$3,519,000

On Friday afternoon Mr. E. F. Skerthly read a paper before The Odd Volumes Society on Cagayan, Sulu, its customs, legends, and superstitions. Dr. Cantlie presided. This little-known island lies midway between Borneo and the Philippines, and has only been visited by some three or four parties of Europeans, and that at most for a few days at a time. The writer has spent twelve days on the island on two visits, and the chief paid frequent and prolonged visits to him in Borneo. Enjoying the confidence of the natives Mr. E. Skerthly was able to gather a mass of information, legendary and otherwise, that has not yet been made public. After describing the physical features of the island and its inhabitants, he said that though Spain claims the island, and has a solitary mestizo official on it, the natives do not acknowledge any vassalage, and look upon the solitary functionary with amusing contempt. The various industries were described, and the commerce with Borneo and Palawan; but the interest of the lecture centred in the blood-curdling stories of a mysterious community called the Berbalangs. These fell beings dwell in a village apart, and are part human, part ghoul, and part spirit. The pupils of their eyes are cat-like, and they feed upon the entrails of living or dead men and women, after the style of the German wehr-wolves. They act by contraries; their cry comes from the opposite direction from their actual position: if a Berbalang threatens you in front you must hit out behind, and so forth. The only specific charm against them is—lime juice! Mr. E. Skerthly described in graphic terms a visit to the Berbalang village, which ended with a tragedy; but in spite of this piece of corroborative evidence he signally failed to see, much less capture a Berbalang.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

CANTON, 9th April.—Macao New Make Congous.—The new season was opened about the 21st ultimo, but the supply has been even smaller than usual. The purchases to date, for London, only amount to 2,100 boxes at Tls. 13 to 20 per picul (=5½d to 7½d per lb.) as at these prices there is a large demand for native consumption and for the Pouchong trade. The quality shows a decided improvement on last season's early shipments, both in liquor and appearance, and the crop generally may be described as a good average one. Prices are about on a level with last year's opening rates, but the more recent purchases show a slight advance, and the market closes firm. There is the usual demand for Australia, and some 600 half-chests have already gone forward, with a further quantity awaiting shipment. There is a great scarcity of common and medium Teas; at the lower quotations, viz., Tls. 13, settlements do not amount to 300 boxes.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1895-96	1894-95
	lbs.	lbs.
Canton and Macao	22,890	76,797

SILK.

CANTON, 9th April.—Tsatiees and Re-reels.—No stock. Dealers are proposing contracts in new season's Re-reels, delivery June to September, at \$530/515/500 for Nos. 1, 2, 3, but no business has resulted. Filatures.—Buying has been checked by the rise in Exchange, which reached fcs. 2.76, 6 m/s. but closes weaker. The falling off in the demand is beginning to affect holders, many of whom would accept a reduction of \$15/25 per picul, on former rates, but these concessions fail to interest buyers. Settlements reported are: 10 bales each How King Cheong and Yu King Lun 9/11 at \$690, 10 bales Kwang Sun 11/13 at \$670, 40 bales Kai Cheong Loong 10/12, 11/13 at \$650/620, 80 bales Kwong Lun Hing 13/15 at \$625, 5 bales Lee King Lun 11/13 at \$685. Some enquiry has existed in short-reels,

for America, and about 100 bales have been placed at \$635 for Yan Hing Cheong 14/16 and equivalent chpps, and at \$630 for Hip Sam Choy 14/16. Waste.—Is rather weaker with only very small fresh settlements. Extra Steam is now offering at \$93 and No. 1 at \$74. Stocks.—Tsatiee nil bales. Cumchucknil bales. Filature 1,500 bales, to close of season.

Settlements for the fortnight:—
1894-95. 1893-94.
For Europe ... 400 bales. 700 bales.
For America ... 150 " 150 "
For Bombay ... nil " nil "
SHANGHAI, 4th April.—(From Messrs. Cromie and Hurkill's circular).—London advices dated 2nd current report the market "firm" at 7/6 for Gold Kiling and 9/6 for Blue Elephants. Deliveries of Chinas to 31st ult. were 800 bales. Raw Silk.—Owing to the advance in the price of silver and rates of exchange, business has almost come to a standstill, as holders refuse to make any material concessions on last quotations. Tsatiees.—No transactions are reported. We hear of Tls. 317½ being offered for Gold Kiling which was refused. Taysams.—Nothing doing. Yellow Silks.—A fair demand has existed, and settlements are about 200 bales. Prices remain about the same as last quoted, viz. Minchow at Tls. 235 to Tls. 241½, Mienyang Tls. 220 to Tls. 226½, Fooyung Tls. 195 to Tls. 202½. We do not give sterling or francs quotations, as it is impossible to know at what rates exchange was calculated. Arrivals, according to the Customs Returns from the 28th March to 3rd April are 267 bales of White, 40 bales of Yellow, and 26 bales of Wild Silk. Re-reels and Filatures.—No further contracts are reported. Wild Silk.—There is very little doing. A parcel of Compo Crapauds changed hands at Tls. 18.50, the quality of which was not up to standard, and pierced Tussah Cocoons were taken at Tls. 43. Pongees.—3,000 pieces of Shanghai were settled at the following rates:—1,000 pieces of 26 oz. at Tls. 3.45, 500 pieces. 24 oz., at Tls. 3.35, 1,500 pieces, 22/23 oz., at Tls. 2.50.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 10th April.—The market continues firm, no supplies coming forward from Formosa. Quotations for Formosa are \$58.00 to \$59.00. During the past week sales have been 120 piculs. Quotations for Japanese camphor nil.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 10th April.—The declines still continue and prices have further declined. Following are the quotations:—
Shekloong, No. 1, White... \$7.30 to 7.34 per picul.
do. " 2, White... 6.88 to 6.95 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown... 4.60 to 4.62 "
do. " 2, Brown... 4.40 to 4.48 "
Swatow, No. 1, White... 7.25 to 7.32 "
do. " 2, White... 6.65 to 6.71 "
do. " 1, Brown... 4.30 to 4.45 "
Swatow, No. 2, Brown... 4.10 to 4.43 "
Fochow Sugar Candy 10.40 to 10.50 "
Shekloong " 9.32 to 9.37 "

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 10th April.—Bengal.—There has been very little doing during the past week and rates are lower in consequence. Patna is quoted at \$705 for Old and \$720 for New. Benares at \$690 for Old and \$705 for New.

Malwa.—The demand has been very meagre and transactions few and unimportant. The following are the current quotations:—

New \$690 with allowance of ¼ to 1½ cts.
Old (2 to 4 yrs.) \$720 " 1 to 1½ "
" (5 to 7 yrs.) \$740 " 1 to 2½ "

Persian.—There has not been any alteration in the values of this drug, which continue at \$720 to \$750 for Oily and at \$750 to \$800 for Paper-wrapped with a very dull market.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—
New Patna 1,500 chests.
Old Patna 850 "
New Benares 440 "
Old Benares 990 "
Malwa 750 "
Persian 1,100 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1895.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
April 3	727½	710	712½	695	690	720/740
April 4	730	710	715	695	690	720/740
April 5	730	710	715	695	690	720/740
April 6	727½	710	712½	695	690	720/740
April 7	727½	710	712½	695	690	720/740
April 8	725	710	710	695	690	720/740
April 9	722½	708½	707½	690	690	720/740
April 10	720	705	705	690	690	720/740

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 9th April.—The market remains dull and neglected. Stocks; 1,125 bales Bengal; 277 bales Rangoon, 317 bales Dacca, and about 300 bales of Chinese Cotton.

Bombay	.....	\$12.00 to 14.00 p. picul.
Kurrachee	.....	12.00 to 14.00 "
Bengal, Rangoon, and Dacca,	.....	12.00 to 15.00 "
Shanghai and Japanese..	.....	16.00 to 17.50 "
Tungchow and Ningpo..	.....	16.00 to 17.50 "
Madras	.....	14.00 to 16.00 "
Sales: 10 bales Bengal, Rangoon, and Dacca, 150 bales Shanghai and Japanese, Tungchow and Ningpo.		

RICE.

HONGKONG, 10th April.—Trade having resumed its usual course with the collapse of the coolie strike, prices have declined a little. Closing quotations are:—

	per picul
Saigon, Ordinary	..... \$2.15 to 2.17
" Round, good quality	..... 2.35 to 2.36
" Long	..... 2.43 to 2.44
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2	..... 2.23 to 2.25
" Garden, " No. 1	..... 2.52 to 2.54
Siam White	..... 2.96 to 2.98
" Fine Cargo	..... 3.18 to 3.20

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 10th April.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARNS AND PIECE GOODS:—Bombay Yarn.—70 bales No. 8 at \$65, 605 bales No. 10 at \$66 to \$71, 680 bales No. 12 at \$68.50 to \$72.50, 745 bales No. 20 at \$78.50 to \$83. Grey Shirtings.—2,000 pieces 10 lbs. Blue 5 Men at \$3.55, 1,250 pieces Stag chop at \$3.55 to \$3.57½, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Blue Stag at \$3.57½, 300 pieces 8½ lbs. Shoemaker at \$2.35, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Fish at \$2.32½. White Shirtings.—350 pieces Mandarin at \$5.05, 900 pieces E.F. at \$6.25, 450 pieces Gold Tiger at \$5.60, 30 pieces Blue Lion at \$5.30. T-Cloths.—7,500 pieces 7 Mex. Red Stag at \$2.10, 2,400 pieces Gold Tiger at \$2.07½, 975 pieces 7 lbs. Mex. Crown chop at \$2.10 to \$2.45, 300 pieces Gold Dragon at \$2.47½, 300 pieces 6 lbs. Red Pagoda at \$1.30. Drills.—150 pieces 16 lbs. Large Eagle at \$5.10. Brocades.—100 pieces Green and Gentian at \$4.10, 500 pieces Purple at \$3.65. Spanish Stripes.—120 pieces Assorted B.R.B. at \$0.59. Camlets.—100 pieces Bird and Flower, Indigo, at \$17.50. White Balzarine.—250 pieces Red Dragon at \$3. Cotton Italians.—400 pieces Gambling at \$0.12.

METALS.—Tin.—100 slabs Malacca at \$35.80, 100 slabs Foong Choi at \$56.70, 100 boxes Tin Plates at \$5.45. Quicksilver.—200 flasks at \$114 to \$114.50.

SHANGHAI, 4th April.—(From Mr. G. W. Noel's report).—Here and there a small indent has gone through on a sterling basis, but as a rule Manchester is taking advantage of the rise in exchange to put up her prices, quite ignoring the fact, as usual, that the native here follows any upward movement in exactly the opposite direction! It is not surprising, therefore, that little or no business has gone through in Plain goods, but a few orders for Printed and Dyed Cottons have been booked. At the close there is rather more enquiry on the part of the Tientsin men concerning American goods, but whether or no the steamers just in have brought better news has not transpired yet.

Metals.—(From Mr. Alex. Bielfeld's report).—5th April.—About 100 tons L.B. "spot" and 100 tons Australian have changed hands among Chinese at Tls. 5.50 to Tls. 5.60 and Tls. 5.10 to Tls. 5.15 respectively. Contracts have been settled by wire for Steel Plate Cuttings, Bamboo Steel, Cobble, Round Bar Iron, Wire Nails, Tinplates, Hoop Iron, Sheet Zinc, Old Scrap Iron and Yellow Metal and Copper Sheathing, but particulars have not transpired and will possibly leak out by next mail.

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 10th April.—The principal features in the market during the week under review have been the drop in Hongkong and Shanghai Banks and Canton Steamboats; otherwise quotations remain more or less unchanged.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai.—Owing to a drop of £2 on the London market, shares here rapidly fell with little or no business to 172 per cent. prem. at which rate sellers ruled the market for a short time. Later, however, when an enquiry arose no shares were forthcoming under 175 per cent., at which figure a few changed hands. The market closes with sellers at this rate. Nationals are now enquired for at \$22½ per share.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have changed hands at \$157½; China Traders dropped to \$66, and sales are reported at this rate; North-Chinas are offering at Tls. 215; and Cantons at \$160.

FIRE INSURANCES.—There are buyers in the market of Hongkong Fires at \$182½ and of Chinas at \$80, but we have no sales to report.

SHIPPING.—Owing to the reported arrangements between the oppositions and the Canton Steamboat Co. having temporarily fallen through the market fell to \$29; but upon reports of negotiations being resumed quickly recovered, and sales were made at \$30, \$31, and \$32, closing with further sellers at the latter rate. Other Steamship shares are obtainable at quotations.

REFINERIES.—Further sales of small lots of China Sugars at \$127 are reported under this heading.

MINING.—Balmorals have been negotiated at \$6½ and \$6¼, and a few Punjoms at \$6¼, but there are further sellers of the latter at this rate. We have nothing else to report in Mining stocks.

MISCELLANEOUS.—There was a good enquiry for Docks, and the market rose to 98 per cent. prem. with sales, but at the time of closing we have sellers at a point under. Kowloon Lands have been done at \$10, Hongkong Lands in small lots at \$57½, and a good many Watsons have found buyers at \$10 and \$9.75, closing firm with enquiries at the latter rate.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS
Banks—		[& sellers]
Hongkong & S'hai.	\$125	175 p. ct. pm., sales
China, Japan, &c...	\$25.0	nom.
Do., Founders.....	\$1	nom.
Nat. Bank of Ch.		
B. Shares.....	\$8	\$22½, buyers
Foun. Shares.	\$1	nom.
Bell's Asbestos E.A. {		
15s.	\$9½	sales
Brown & Co., H. G...	\$50	4½, sellers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$1	2, buyers
China Borneo	\$55	nom.
China Sugar	\$100	\$127, sales
Chinese Loan '86 E.	Tls. 250	11 p. ct. pm.
Dakin, Cruick's & Co.	\$5	\$1
Dairy Farm Co.	\$10	6.25, sales & buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	15, sellers
Green Island Cement	\$50	8½, sales
H. Brick & Cement.	\$12.50	5, sales & buyers
H. & C. Bakery	\$3	36
Hongkong & C. Gas. F.	\$10	\$125, buyers
Hongkong Electric...	\$8	\$4.75, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways.	\$100	65, sales & buyers
Hongkong Ice.....	\$25	\$76
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	38, sales & sellers
Hongkong Rope.....	\$50	\$121
H. & W. Dock.....	\$125	97 p. ct. pm., sellers
Hotels—		
Hongkong Hotel...	\$50	\$9, buyers
Shameen	\$20	4
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$160, sellers
China Fire	\$20	80, buyers
China Traders' ...	\$25	\$66, sales
Hongkong Fire ...	\$50	\$182½, buyers
North-China	\$25	Tls. 215, sellers
Straits Marine.....	\$10	20, sales & sellers
Union	\$5	\$157½, sales
Yangtze	\$60	\$100, ex div.
Land & Building—		
H. Land Investm't	\$50	\$57½, sales
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$10, sales
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$9½
West Point Buildg.	\$40	\$17, sales
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$45, sellers
Mining—		
New Balmoral.....	\$3	\$6½, sales
Charbonnages.....	\$131.58	\$75, sellers
Jebeu	\$5	\$4
Punjum	\$3½	\$6½, sales & sellers
Do. (Preference)	\$1	\$1.75
Raub	13s. 10d.	\$4½
Steamship Coys.—		
China & Manila ...	\$50	\$59, sellers
Douglas S. S. Co...	\$50	\$49, sellers
H., Canton, & M...	\$20	\$32, sales & sell rs
Indo-China S. N...	\$10	\$47, sellers
W'chai Warehouse Co.	\$37½	\$37½
Watson & Co., A. S...	\$10	\$10, sales & buyers

CHATER & VERNON, Share Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 5th April.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s report.)—Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Cash shares have been placed at 175 to 185 per cent. premium, but the market weakened yesterday, and shares were sold at 180. On time business was done at 195, 200, and 192½ for May. The cash quotation in Hongkong is 183 and in London £41. Shipping

—Indo-Chinas were placed at Tls. 31½ and Tls. 32 for cash and Tls. 34 for 30th June. Hongkong, Canton & Macao Steamboat shares were sold at \$31½ and \$32. Docks.—Shares in S. C. Farnham & Co. changed hands at Tls. 140 and Tls. 142½. Marine Insurance.—China Traders were sold at \$66, North-Chinas at Tls. 212½ and Tls. 210, Unions at \$160, and a sale of Straits at \$23 ex dividend is reported. Fire Insurance.—China Fires have changed hands locally at \$77, and a purchase was made from Hongkong at \$78½. Wharf.—Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf shares have been sold to Hongkong at \$37. Miscellaneous.—Business has been done in: Shanghai Waterworks shares at Tls. 168½ for 30th April, Perak Sugar Cultivation shares at Tls. 29½, Shanghai Land Investment shares, fully paid up, at Tls. 54, Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares at Tls. 400 and Tls. 410 cash, and Tls. 460 for 31st July, and Shanghai-Lankat Tobacco shares at Tls. 110 cash and Tls. 125 for July. Shares have been sold at \$20 ex dividend. Loans.—Municipal Debentures, issue 1893, have been sold at Tls. 100, plus accrued interest, Shanghai Land Investment Company's 5½ per cent. Debentures at Tls. 93, Shanghai Waterworks Debentures at Tls. 102½, plus interest, Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Debentures at Tls. 102, plus interest, and Shanghai-Lankat Debentures at par, plus interest.

WEDNESDAY, 10th April. EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/1½
Bank Bills, on demand	2/1½
Bank Bills, at 30 day's sight	2/1½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/2½
Documentary Bills 4 months' sight	2/2½
ON PARIS.	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.70
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.76
ON GERMANY.	
On Demand	2.18
ON NEW YORK.	
Bank Bills, on demand	52½
Credits, 60 day's sight	53½
ON BOMBAY.	
Telegraphic Transfer	191½
Bank, on demand	191½
ON CALCUTTA.	
Telegraphic Transfer	191½
Bank, on demand	191½
ON SHANGHAI.	
Banks, at sight	71½
Private, 30 day's sight	72½
ON YOKOHAMA.	
On demand	½ % pm.
ON MANILA.	
On demand	7 % pm., nom.
ON SINGAPORE.	
On demand	½ % pm.
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	9.13
GO D LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	48.50

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 10th April.—Since last report, chartering coastwise has been greatly restricted owing to the strike among the cargo coolies, which lasted about a fortnight, but which is now fortunately over.

From Saigon to Hongkong 19 cents is the rate now offered, but the demand is not very strong.

From Bangkok to this the current rate is 20 cents outside and 25 cents inside the bar, but there is nothing doing.

Japan coal freights are weak, quotations being \$2 to Hongkong, \$2.25 to Swatow, \$2.50 to Amoy, and \$2.50 to Singapore.

A large carrier has been fixed to arrive, to load hence for New York at about 18s. per ton of 40 cubic feet.

There are two vessels disengaged in port, registering 2,361 tons.

The following are the settlements:—
Fort Stuart—British ship, 2,313 tons, Hongkong to New York.

Petropolis—German steamer, 1,481 tons, Singapore to two ports Continent.

Orient—German barque, 447 tons, Hancoche Bay to Singapore, \$1,500 in full.

Lina—German barque, 440 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong, \$3,500 in full.

Holstein—German steamer, 1,103 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 20½ cents per picul.

Omba—British steamer, 1,908 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 19 cents per picul.

Tetartos—German steamer, 1,878 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul.

Gloucester City—British steamer, 1,409 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul.

China—German steamer, 1,093 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 19½ cents per picul.

Omba—British steamer, 1,908 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2 per ton.

Victoria—Swedish steamer, 988 tons, monthly, 3/3 months, \$7,000 per month.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

March—

- ARRIVALS.**
- 6, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Saigon.
 - 6, Chunshan, British str., from Canton.
 - 6, Taichow, British str., from Whampoa.
 - 6, Ethiopie, British str., from Moji.
 - 6, Arroyo, British str., from Singapore.
 - 6, Beatrice, British str., from Saidon.
 - 6, Chiyuen, British str., from Chinkiang.
 - 6, Peiyang, German str., from Chinkiang.
 - 6, Tellus, Norw. str., from Whampoa.
 - 6, Serrano, Amr. bark, from Singapore.
 - 7, Ancona, British str., from Yokohama.
 - 7, China, German str., from Whampoa.
 - 7, Chowfa, British str., from Bangkok.
 - 7, Hailoong, British str., from Tamsui.
 - 7, Loosok, British str., from Bangkok.
 - 7, Pekin, British str., from Amoy.
 - 7, Triumph, German str., from Hoihow.
 - 8, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
 - 8, Gisela, Austrian str., from Kobe.
 - 8, Mathilde, German str., from Amoy.
 - 8, Namoa, British str., from Foochow.
 - 8, Cristoforo Colombo, Ital. cr., from Saigon.
 - 8, Polydhemus, British str., from Liverpool.
 - 8, Normandie, Norw. str., from Bangkok.
 - 9, Pekin, British str., from Shanghai.
 - 9, Formosa, British str., from Swatow.
 - 9, Queen Adelaide, British str., from Cardiff.
 - 9, Leeyuen, British str., from Shanghai.
 - 9, Progress, German str., from Swatow.
 - 9, Lightning, British str., from Calcutta.
 - 9, Oanfa, British str., from Shanghai.
 - 9, Wolf, German g.-ht., from Chefoo.
 - 9, Hangchow, British str., from Canton.
 - 9, Titan, British str., from Shanghai.
 - 9, Tantalus, British str., from Moji.
 - 10, Tamarind, Norw. str., from Bangkok.
 - 10, Bygdo, Norw. str., from Bangkok.
 - 10, Thales, British str., from Taiwanfoo.
 - 10, Kwanglee, British str., from Shanghai.
 - 10, Changsha, British str., from Kobe.
 - 10, Strathavon, British str., from Saigon.
 - 10, Velocity, British bark, from Honolulu.

March—

- DEPARTURES.**
- 6, Continental, Dutch str., for Hoihow.
 - 6, Fidelio, German str., for Saigon.
 - 6, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
 - 6, Fushun, British str., for Shanghai.
 - 6, Glenogle, British str., for Shanghai.
 - 6, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
 - 6, Nanyang, German str., for Shanghai.
 - 6, Propontis, British str., for Singapore.
 - 6, Taisang, British str., for Swatow.
 - 6, Yuensang, British str., for Amoy.
 - 7, Benlarig, British str., for Singapore.
 - 7, Benvenue, British str., for Kobe.
 - 7, Bogstad, Norw. str., for Saigon.
 - 7, Chunshan, British str., for Swatow.
 - 7, Chiyuen, British str., for Canton.
 - 7, Donar, German str., for Bangkok.
 - 7, Menmuir, British str., for Australia.
 - 7, Nanchang, British str., for Tientsin.
 - 7, Parthian, British str., for Saigon.
 - 7, Peiyang, German str., for Canton.
 - 7, Riversdale, British str., for Nagasaki.
 - 7, Sishan, British str., for Swatow.
 - 7, Swatow, German str., for Hoihow.
 - 7, Tritos, German str., for Bangkok.
 - 7, Din, Portuguese g.-bt., for Macao.
 - 8, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
 - 8, Rosetta, British str., for Shanghai.
 - 8, Taichow, British str., for Bangkok.
 - 8, Gibraltar, British str., for Singapore.
 - 8, Peacock, British g.-bt., for a cruise.
 - 9, Moldava, British str., for Takao.
 - 9, Pallas, British str., for Kutchinotzu.
 - 9, Mathilde, German str., for Saigon.
 - 9, Dryfesdale, British str., for Saigon.
 - 9, Vladimir Monomach, Rus. cr., for Japan.
 - 9, China, German str., for Saigon.
 - 9, Devawongse, British str., for Bangkok.
 - 9, Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.
 - 9, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
 - 9, Ingrabau, German str., for Saigon.
 - 9, Machew, British str., for Bangkok.
 - 9, Tetartos, German str., for Saigon.
 - 9, Leeyuen, British str., for Canton.
 - 10, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.
 - 10, Gaelic, British str., for San Francisco.
 - 10, Ask, Danish str., for Hoihow.
 - 10, Arroyo, British str., for Kobe.
 - 10, Emp. of China, Brit. str., for Vancouver.
 - 10, Gisela, Austrian str., for Trieste.
 - 10, Memnon, British str., for Kudat.